NEW TOMB RAIDER!

E3 REPORT: SPIDER-MAN! FINAL FANTASY 9...AND 11!

X-MEN MOVIE SPECTACULAR!

WIZARD

X-MEN MOVIE ISSUE

TONS OF...

PICTURES! CHARACTER BIOS! & SFX SECRETS!

SO MUCH X-STUFF YOUR HEAD'LL EXPLODE!

JUSKO Y2K

HOW TO DRAW SUPERMAN!

Hugh Jackman as WOLVERINE

COLLECTOR'S COVER 1 of 4

0 74851 64959 6 08

$4.99 USA • $6.95 CAN

AUGUST 2000 • wizardworld.com

KILLER ACTION!!!

KEVIN LAU'S NEW VISION CONTINUES...

ISSUE #2 EXPLODES IN AUGUST!!!

VAMPi™

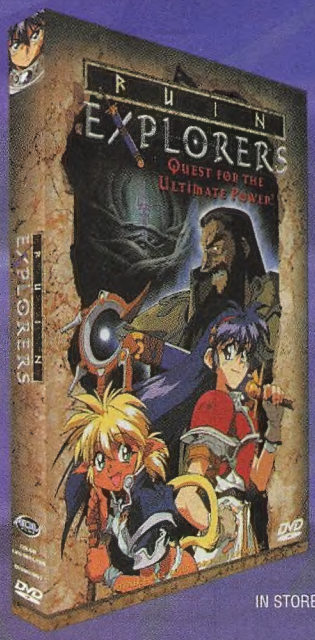
WIN! KEVIN LAU'S ORIGINAL COVER ARTWORK!
ENTER AT VAMPIRELLA.COM

No Purchase Required. See website for details. VAMPIRELLA including VAMPI published by Harris Publications, Inc. © 2000. VAMPIRELLA ® Harris Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

HARRIS COMICS VAMPIRELLA

ADV FILMS promises

It's going to be a DVD-lightful Summer!

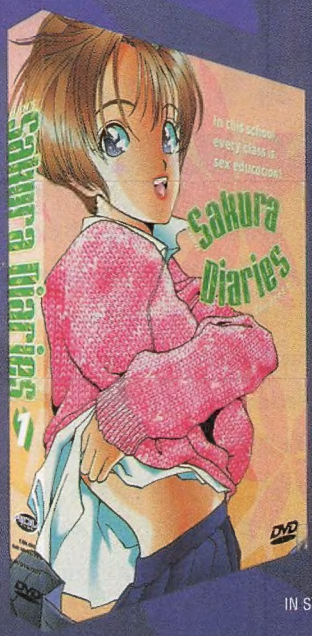


"I recommend highly Ruin Explorers to die hard fans and new-comers alike."

- Dave Halverson, Gamer's Republic

When lovely young adventurers Fam and Ihrie take on a dangerous assignment to recover a fabled weapon of unbelievable power, an entire civilization is about to be turned over on its foundations!

IN STORES **07/11/00** **$29.98**



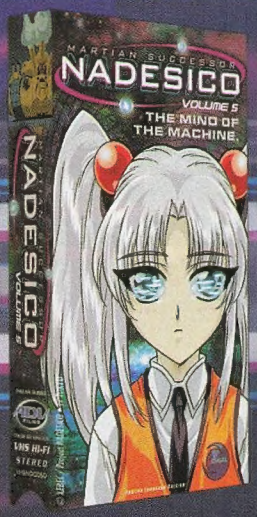
"Sakura Diaries is a wonderful show...it's also hilarious."

- Chris Beveridge, Anime on DVD

Urara likes Touma. Touma likes Meiko. Meiko might like Touma, but Meiko only dates college boys. So what's an under-achiever like Touma to do? Well, if you're Touma, you'll lie and say you got into the most prestigious college. And if you're Urara, will you keep his secret? Or will you use that secret to ruin his chances with the other girl? The only way to find out is to take your key, open the lock and sneak a peek into *Sakura Diaries*.

IN STORES **07/25/00** **$29.98**

ANIMATION FOR A NEW GENERATION!™ www.advfilms.com



"Fun, funny and entertaining." - Brian Kaya, Tokyo Pop

In the not-so-distant future, when humanity colonizes the moon and Mars and prepares to expand to the other planets, attackers appear from Jupiter! Overpowered and out-matched, Earth's hopes rest on the newly developed spaceship *Nadesico*. Commanded by the love struck Yurika and her reluctant pilot Akito, the *Nadesico* heads for Mars and destiny! In episode 5, a new form of Jovian weapon has been unleashed and only the *Nadesico's* Aestivalis pilots can stop it. But this time they'll have to do it on foot!

IN STORES **07/25/00** DUBBED **$19.98** SUBBED **$29.95**

"The Knight Sabers are still kicking heavy-metal butt and taking names." - Animego

Mysterious clues about Sylia's hidden past begin to surface as the Knight Sabers are drawn into a deadly race to discover a missing research facility. But even as their objective begins to get closer, the team starts to fall apart as the real reasons for the Knight Sabers' existence come into question. Underneath the ruins of old Tokyo, the ultimate nightmare begins to awake as a long buried secret turns into a deadly trap in the sixth shocking volume of *BUBBLEGUM CRISIS - Tokyo 2040*.

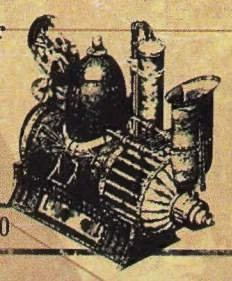
IN STORES **07/11/00** DUBBED **$19.98** SUBBED **$29.95**

Ruin Explorers © 1995 Kunihiko Tanaka • Hobby Japan / Bandai Visual • Nippon Columbia • Movic Sakura Diaries © YUJIN / SHOGAKUKAN / Kitty Film / Victor Entertainment Martian Successor Nadesico © XEBEC / Project NADESICO • TV TOKYO Bubblegum Crisis: Tokyo 2040 © JVC / AIC

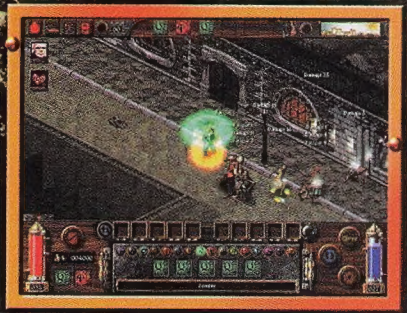
TOWER RECORDS • VIDEO • BOOKS
CAMELOT MUSIC no one knows DVD music better!
SUNCOAST MOTION PICTURE COMPANY
amazon.com
BEST BUY
HMV
Reel.com YOUR CONNECTION TO THE MOVIES

AN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN A WORLD of MAGIC

Danger awaits, hardy traveler, in the turbulent lands of Arcanum! Prepare potion or pistol, for armament is a must! Encounter more than 500 friends and fiends of the oddest sort on dozens of quests and campaigns. Travel alone through this massive realm, or invite companions to join you online. And for those with discriminating taste, we sport the most advanced role-playing system ever created in this or any other reality.



Appleby Steam 1200



Choose dueling or discourse to carry the day in this epic tale. Many means exist to solve the dozens of quests found throughout this massive land.

Rewards await heroes and villains of hardy caliber and constitution! Earn Fate Points and enhance your Reputation among the denizens of Arcanum.

Create your own online campaigns with the Arcanum World Editor, a robust tool designed for the common folk.

© 2000 Sierra On-Line, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Sierra, Sierra Studios and Arcanum are trademarks of Sierra On-Line, Inc. The Troika logo is a registered trademark of Troika Games, LLC.

RATING PENDING RP CONTENT RATED BY ESRB

Visit www.esrb.org or call 1-800-771-3772 for more info.

PC CD ROM GAME

TROIKA

SIERRA STUDIOS

www.arcanum1.com

GRIMOIRE
& GASLIGHT
Discover the mysteries of magic and technology! Delve into dark caverns or prowl the squalid city streets to unearth the secrets of this tortured age.
ARCANUM™
OF STEAMWORKS & MAGICK OBSCURA

HOME OF
MARVEL
COMICS
HEROES
JULY 2000
SENTRY #1
In 1961, The Fantastic Four Arrived. One Week Earlier Something Else Was Born!
An All-New Marvel Knights Limited Series
By The Eisner Award-Winning Creative Team Of Paul Jenkins And Jae Lee!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #33

New Penciler Dan Jurgens Is Here-And So Is Protocide!

AVATAARS: COVENANT OF THE SHIELD #1

An All-New, Three-Part Tale Of Swords And Sorcery!

UNIVERSE X: O

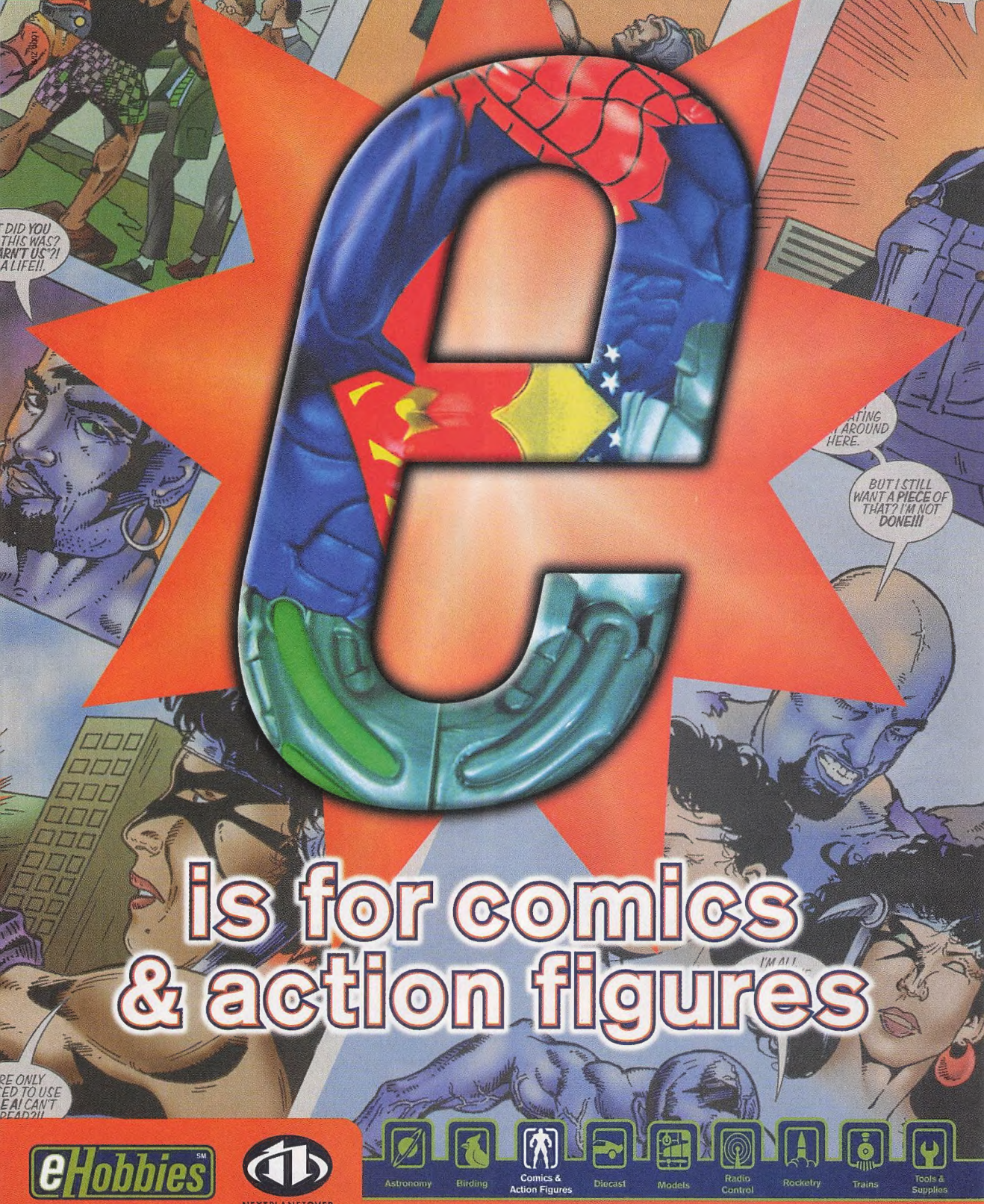
The New Saga Begins With This 48-Page Prologue! Painted Cover, Character Designs And Story By Alex Ross!

AVENGERS INFINITY #1

Four Issues Of Outer Space Action From the pages of AVENGERS FOREVER!

WWW.MARVEL.COM

TM & © 2000 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



eHobbies℠

NEXTPLANETOVER

creating a new world for hobbyists℠

Hey all you fanboys and groovy grrrls – it's time to get with the new evolution in Comics and Action Figures... eHobbies.com, the ULTIMATE online destination for the true enthusiast! Chat with other fans, check out our cool auctions and find all your action figures, books and gear in one gigantic, swirling mass of virtual perfection! If you're looking for Comics and Action Figures, or perhaps a NEW hobby log on to eHobbies.com!

www.eHobbies.com

For phone orders call 888-988-9660

AOL keyword: eHobbies

WIZARD®

contents

THE COM M GAZI NE • NUMBER 107 • AUG ST 2000

p. 54

FEATURES

34 FIRST LOOK: SHAZAM: POWER OF HOPE
Alex Ross and Paul Dini pin their hopes on DC's Captain Marvel for their third tabloid-sized special. **By Christopher Lawrence**

36 TITLE FIGHT 2000
'Rising Stars' and 'Top 10' shine as the two best books around, but which one comes out on top? **By the *Wizard* Staff**

42 MAKING WAVES
'Wizard' sets sail with comics' biggest names from the past two decades—Frank Miller, Neil Gaiman, Kurt Busiek and Mark Waid. **By Mike Cotton**

48 THE FINAL ANSWER
Will Wolverine kill? Will there be a Danger Room? Who bags Jean Grey? Everything you need to know about the 'X-Men' movie starts here. **By Christopher Lawrence**

54 FX MEN
Special-effects guru Gordon Smith dissects how he and his 'X-Men' team mutated 10 very human stars into full-fledged mutants. **By Christopher Lawrence**

X-MEN MOVIE

ON OUR COVERS:

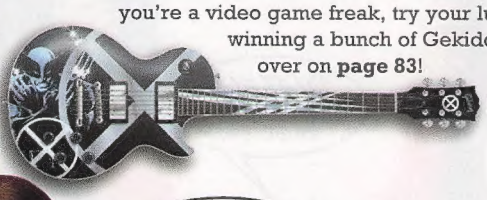
Super-painter Joe Jusko rendered four beautiful "X-Men" movie covers for us! We've got **Wolverine (1)**, **Professor X (2)**, **Mystique (3)** and **Sabretooth (4)**. For tons of X-Men coverage, check out **page 48** for the answers to all your "X-Men" movie questions and **page 54** for behind-the-scenes action with the "X-Men" creators! Plus, we've got loads o' X-Men facts and info on practically every other page! Read on!

WOLVERINE, X-MEN: THE MOVIE © 2000 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

CONTESTS!

WIN STUFF!!!!!

We've got not one, but *two* contests for your butt this month. For you budding musicians, check out **page 69** for a chance to win an X-Men Gibson Guitar! And if you're a video game freak, try your luck at winning a bunch of Gekido stuff over on **page 83**!



p. 69

STANDARDS

10 FROM THE TOP
12 MAGIC WORDS
20 WIZARD NEWS & NOTES
32 LAST MAN STANDING
WOLVERINE VS. SABRETOOTH ...TO THE DEATH
66 CASTING CALL
"X-MEN 2"
70 COMING ATTRACTIONS
74 DOT COMICS
78 BASIC TRAINING
HOW TO DRAW SUPERMAN BY ED McGUINNESS
84 TOY CHEST
88 STUFF
92 VIDEO STUFF
SPECIAL E3 WRAP-UP!
98 MANGA MANIA
106 PICKS
112 BOOK OF THE MONTH:
USAGI YOJIMBO
116 'NET GAINS
120 HOT 10 COMICS
122 HIT LIST
ALL-NEW FORMAT FOR THE TOP 100!
126 ARTISTS & WRITERS
128 COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE
168 GUIDE TO GRADED COMICS
174 CHECKLIST: ALAN MOORE
178 PRICE GUIDE BONUS:
X-MEN TOYS
186 SHOWS & CONS
189 C.B.I.Q.
190 BULLPEN
192 THE HOT SEAT
THE NEW LARA CROFT MODEL!

COOL STUFF THROUGH THE MAIL

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

VAMPI #1/2

Sink your teeth into the all-new, manga-influenced *Vampi* by Kevin Lau in this exclusive *Wizard* #1/2 offer. Featuring stunning art, action o' plenty, tons of adrenaline and one fearsomely hot heroine, *Vampi* #1/2 is a bloody good read! Flip on over to **page 96** for all the details.

CARRERE PHOTO COURTESY OF FOTO FANTASIES; LARA CROFT COURTESY EIDOS INTERACTIVE

ONE MAN.

ONE MISSION.

ONE MILLION BABES TO SAVE.

DUKE NUKEM

PLANET OF THE BABES™

WWW.DUKE-NUKEM.COM

☢ NEW DUKE NUKEM™ GAME ONLY FOR THE PLAYSTATION® GAME CONSOLE! ☢ IMMERSIVE 3RD-PERSON SHOOT 'EM-UP ACTION! ☢ 14 UNIQUE MISSIONS! ☢ 2-PLAYER MULTIPLAY!
☢ 18 KICK-ASS WEAPONS, PLUS LOADS OF HIGH-TECH GADGETS! ☢ FEATURES IN-GAME MUSIC BY STATIC X, COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. RECORDS™! ☢ ONE MILLION BABES. ONE DUKE. ANY QUESTIONS?

PlayStation

3D Realms www.3drealms.com

n-Space www.n-space.com

GT Interactive Software www.gtgames.com

MATURE M CONTENT RATED BY ESRB

Animated Violence
Animated Blood and Gore
Strong Sexual Context

FROM THE TOP

THIS MONTH'S EPISODE:

MUTANT MASSACRE!

IN THE PLUSH OFFICES OF WIZARD FOUNDER AND CEO GAREB SHAMUS...
WELCOME, HOMO SAPIENS, TO WIZARD'S BLOWOUT X-MEN MOVIE ISSUE!
WHY, THE X-MEN MOVIE HAS MADE MUTANTS SO POPULAR, I'VE DECIDED TO REVEAL MYSELF AS A MUTANT!
BEHOLD, FOR MINE IS THE POWER...
...TO MAKE ICE!
FOR MY NEXT TRICK, I'LL-- WHO DA?!?
CONFOUND IT, SHAMUS! MY FRAPPUCCINO IS COLD!
SMACK!
...I INK MY OOF IF LOOF...
NOW WHERE'S MY DONUT...?
THE END

PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHRALDI

MASTHEAD

THE GUILTY PARTIES

VICE PRESIDENT/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Patrick McCallum
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Matthew Senreich
EDITOR Brian Cunningham
SENIOR MANAGING EDITOR Joe Yanarella
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Kardon
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Justin Jones
COPY EDITOR Andy Serwin
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR Jim McLauchlin
STAFF WRITERS Mike Cotton and Christopher Lawrence
SENIOR PRICE GUIDE EDITOR Jon Warren
PRICE GUIDE EDITOR Bob Marshall
ASSISTANT PRICE GUIDE EDITOR Wade Sain
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Cheryl Raymundo

DESIGN MANAGER Steve Blackwell
ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR Arlene So
DESIGNERS Jacqueline Bencic, Mikey Bencic, Owen Kehoe, Matt Ryan and James A. Walker
CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS Red Eye Design Co., Laurie Straus and Voltage Design Co.
RESEARCH EDITOR Daniel Reilly
RESEARCH ASSISTANTS Nachie Castro, James McDonough and Casey Seijas
STAFF MUTANT POWER Eternal Flatulence

CONTRIBUTORS Jim Arehart, Scott Brick, Jay Busbee, Dan DiGiacomo, Robert K. Elder, Richard Ho, Seth Jones, John B. Lacey, Jim Lafayette, Ed McGuinness, John Micek, Zach Oat, Jake Rossen, Mike Shin, Jesse Thompson

WOLVERINE, MYSTIQUE, PROFESSOR X AND SABRETOOTH! COVERS They're all by Joe Jusko, kids!

ADVERTISING SALES

VICE PRESIDENT/ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Ken Scrudato
SALES AND MARKETING CONSULTANT Seymour Miles
ADVERTISING PROJECTS MANAGER Karen Evora
ACCOUNT MANAGERS (NY) Brent Erwin and Salvatore M. Mingoia
(NY) PHONE (212) 765-5700 FAX (212) 765-5779
ACCOUNT MANAGERS (WEST COAST) Phil Lawrence and Marguerite Tucker (702) 889-8928
SALES ASSISTANTS Tracey Martin, Stefanie Moffa and Nicole Ossman
(CONGERS) PHONE (914) 268-3907 FAX (914) 268-5386
For Classified and Show Calendar Advertising, contact Karen Evora.

WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

CHAIRMAN/CEO Gareb S. Shamus
PRESIDENT/COO Fred Pierce
VICE PRESIDENT/CFO Edward L. DuPré
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Kimberly Lanzano
VICE PRESIDENT/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Martha Donato
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Darren Sanchez
PROMOTIONS MANAGER Maria Capello
MANAGER OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Robert Felton
PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT Cañada Baltimore
VICE PRESIDENT/CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION Paul Rolnick
CIRCULATION MANAGER Jen Santopietro
ACCOUNTING MANAGER Raka Hoyt
STAFF ACCOUNTANT Scott Klein
ACCOUNTING CLERKS Mikey "The Knife" Fasolo and Hassan Godwin
DIRECTOR OF SALES Stewart Morales
VICE PRESIDENT/SPECIAL EDITIONS EDITOR Douglas Goldstein
ONLINE EDITOR Buddy Scalera
ONLINE ASSISTANT EDITOR Rus Wooton
OFFICE MANAGER Gwen Nicosia
WAREHOUSE MANAGER Gedalias Donato

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES call (914) 268-3594
Diane DeVries, Meghan Lofstrom and Fern Rucci

FOREIGN LICENSING Alison James, Trio Marketing Services
PHONE (203) 266-7110 FAX (203) 266-7661

ENTERTAINMENT CONVENTIONS, INC.

DIRECTOR Stephen Shamus
SHOW MANAGER & SALES Brenda Cook (914) 268-8068
PROGRAM COORDINATOR Phil Colligan

WIZARD: THE COMICS MAGAZINE, volume one, one-hundred seven (107), August 2000.

Please direct all editorial-related inquiries to Wizard Editorial Dept., 151 Wells Avenue, Congers, NY 10920-2064 (or Fax. 914-268-0053). Please direct all subscription-related inquiries to Wizard Subscription Dept., PO Box 638, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. One-year subscription rate is $29.95 (Canada $48.00, all other countries $70.00). All payments in U.S. funds only.

Any statements made, expressed or implied in WIZARD: THE COMICS MAGAZINE are solely those of columnists or persons being interviewed and do not represent the editorial position of the publisher, who does not accept responsibility for such statements. All characters and artwork shown in WIZARD: THE COMICS MAGAZINE are trademark and © of their respective owners.

WIZARD: THE COMICS MAGAZINE (ISSN 1065-6495) is published monthly by Gareb Shamus Enterprises Inc., D.B.A. Wizard Entertainment, 151 Wells Ave., Congers, NY 10920-2064. Periodical postage paid at Congers, NY and additional mailing offices. Additional Standard (A) Postage paid on enclosures. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT, PO Box 638, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.

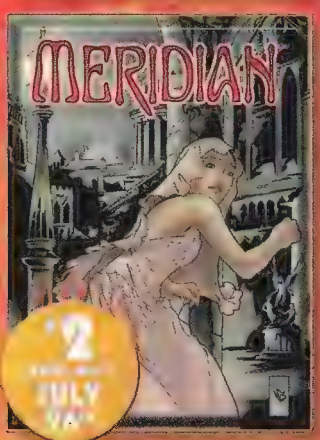
Entire contents © 2000 Gareb Shamus Enterprises Inc. The Wizard logo is protected through trademark registration in the United States of America. Publication information may not be reproduced in part or whole in any form without prior written permission of Wizard ENTERTAINMENT and Gareb S. Shamus.

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

ABC AUDITED

CROSSGEN™

TWICE as HOT as in JULY!



MYSTIC™

#2 JULY 5th

THESE LETTERS ARE NOT TO BE USED AS A LIFE-SAVING DEVICE

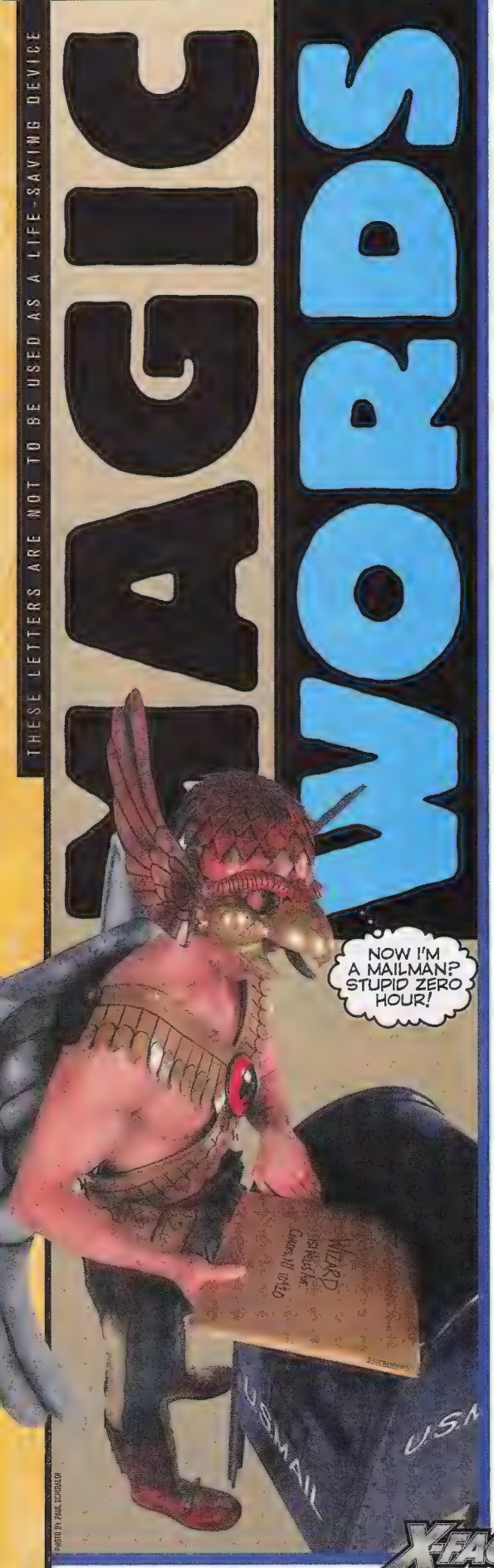


PHOTO BY PAUL SCRIBALDI

AUTOBOTS ASSEMBLED... ALEX ROSS BRUTALIZED... AND DALE KEOWN LIVES!

Lotta letters. No time to blather. Hell, we found Dale Keown. Start reading.

Dear *Wizard*,

Grant Morrison's magnum opus, six-part "World War III" storyarc on *JLA* (just concluded with #41) will be remembered as among the best stories in any team book ever. What helps put it in that category is the sheer number of memorable scenes throughout it.

Looking through, we see the angels defying heaven to aid Zauriel on Earth. We see the statues of Easter Island enveloping the world with Wonder Woman's Purple Ray to super-empower the human race. We see Green Lantern finally get over his inferiority complex, and a Batman/Superman mind-link getting Supes out of deep mind control to save the day.

Last but not least, Oracle stands up out of her wheelchair.

It has been argued that this last scene should not have been just a temporary effect of the Purple Ray, but, with a little show of editorial courage by DC, a permanent change. That change would not only start a new era in DC history, but also serve as a symbolic closing of an old era: The Dark Age of Comics, a nightmarish age that gave birth to a gazillion grim 'n' gritty, meaningless anti-heroes whose only ability was to kill. The shooting of Barbara Gordon, the event that landed her in a wheelchair, was a key component of that era.

I'm not saying Barbara Gordon should jump straight back into being Batgirl. I'm just saying it sure would be nice if she could simply stand while chatting on the phone with Black Canary in the pages of *Birds of Prey*.

J. Russell Pelt
jrp1029@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

Hmmm. Interesting that in your analysis, Grant Morrison, who gave us other-dimensional demons occupying Earth in *The Invisibles* and the Skrull Kill Krew, came *this* close to being the savior of all things warm and fuzzy in comics.

Yeah, there's a certain fanboy rah-rah factor that would have been fulfilled by seeing Oracle overcome her paralysis. But it ain't gonna happen, and *Birds of Prey* scribe Chuck Dixon argues that's the way it oughtta be. "So for the sake of justifying a couple of panels in another book, I should trash the next three years of *Birds of Prey* continuity?" Dixon asks. "Barbara Gordon, for reasons to be made clear over the course of time, rejects any efforts to get her out of that chair. It's part of her character and a major part of coming events. So for now, she remains seated."

Dear *Wizard*,

With the departure of *Preacher* later this year, comics will have a void left by the lack of writer Garth Ennis. I realize that Ennis is doing a year's run on *Punisher*, but it's not enough. And since Ennis' *Hitman* is also ending, I offer some possible jobs for Garth to take on.

1) *Crisis on Hypertime Earths*. *Crisis* didn't help the DC Universe's gaping wound in continuity. Hypertime has poured salt into that wound. Give Garth Ennis complete control over the DC Universe (Yeah, like that'll happen!) and let him fix the problems!

2) *Wolverine*. If anyone could capture the heart of the Canuck, it would be Ennis. Make *Wolverine* a "Marvel Knights" comic and have Wolvie tell the X-Men to piss off!

3) *G.I. Joe* or *Sgt. Rock*. Talk about a great war comic! We saw what Ennis did with the *Unknown Soldier* mini-series.

X-FACTORS

MUCH HAS BEEN MADE OF WOLVERINE'S HEALING FACTOR, WHICH CAN HEAL VIRTUALLY ANY NON-LETHAL INJURY. READERS FIRST SAW IT WHEN WOLVIE'S ARM GOT MAULED BY A DINOSAUR IN THE SAVAGE LAND. (*UNCANNY X-MEN* #116)

CROSSGEN™

COMICS

Not your ordinary comic company!
Not your ordinary web site!

Get the inside info on CrossGen's monthly titles and more!

MYSTIC
AVAILABLE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
Ron Marz Brandon Peterson
John Dell Andrew Crossley

SCION
AVAILABLE THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
Ron Marz Jim Cheung
Don Hillsman II Caesar Rodriguez

SIGIL
AVAILABLE THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
Barbara Kesel Ben Lai
Ray Lai Wil Quintana

MERIDIAN
AVAILABLE THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
Barbara Kesel Joshua Middleton
Dexter Vines Mike Atiyeh

BUNNY AWARD

LETTER OF THE MONTH

PHOTO BY PAUL SCIBILIA

Jim takes his favorite letter and spotlights it here. There's no logic attached to this, nor is there a prize. You can now e-mail The Bunny at bunnywiz1@aol.com!

Yo Jim,

In the photo for the "Draw *Wizard* Contest" in #104, there is a photo of a drawing table with a yellow Post-It note on it that reads, "Draw/Eat/Draw/Sleep/Draw."

Can you have the Bunny write out a sufficient amount of those Post-Its, then cover Joe Madureira's walls with 'em? And while he's there, he probably should smash Joe Mad's PlayStation with a ball-peen hammer, too. The world will thank you, and we might actually see another issue of *Battle Chasers*.

No Bunny, no peace!

Errol Portman
Coral Gables, FL

A sufficient amount? I don't think there are that many in the world. But if it ever happens, you can be sure that stock in 3M (makers of Post-It notes, and—get this dichotomy—both toilet paper *and* sandpaper) will go through the roof.

So keep your eye on the Dow Jones listings to see when the next issue of *Battle Chasers* will hit. I'm guessing December.

4) *Featherstone*, focusing on the *Preacher* supporting character and that file spotted in one issue showing other candidates to become the new Messiah. That would be a sure-fire hit! Yep!

Todd Cash
Preecher@hotmail.com

I think Garth already has an agent.

But just for kicks, I bounced your ideas off him. Here's what everyone's favorite hyper-violent-in-writing-style but hyper-friendly Irishman had to say:

1) "Interesting idea. But I fear chaos would ensue. Continuity-fixing is not really my cup of tea. And I know DC is very protective of their continuity. I'm probably the last person they'd want doing that."

2) "Not a bad idea, but as I recall, the character is kind of bothered by a conscience. And with Wolverine, there's always freaks from his past popping up. In terms of sheer violence, I could do a really cracking comic book, I suppose. But that's what I've got *Punisher* for, isn't it?"

3) "Funny. I actually did have a go at *Sgt. Rock* for DC, but it didn't get far. When you're talking about Rock, you're talking about an icon, and there's just too much baggage that goes along with that. I want to do war stories, but I'll do my own rather than channel them through known characters."

(Psst! Along those lines, look for DC's *Adventures in the Rifle Brigade*, a Garth-written mini-series starting in August. And a four-years-in-the-making and still un-scheduled *Enemy Ace* from DC two-parter will hit someday.)

4) "Let's just says Featherstone's future is a short one. But I will develop and write new characters of my own. The future holds a lot more of that for me."

Dear Mr. Jim,

I was just wondering: Has Alex Ross ever painted Space Ghost? And if he hasn't, would you please force him to?

Jason Richarme
Clearwater, FL

Sure.

I went to Alex's pad, busted him one in the chops, put him in the sleeper hold and screamed, "Jason Richarme wants Space Ghost! So start paintin', funnybook man, or I'll choke you out and make you do the chicken!"

After he stopped quaking in abject fear, Ross cranked out a Space Ghost lithograph that will be available at Warner Bros. Studio Stores this winter.

Service with a smile, and just a hint of violence: That's the *Wizard* way.

Dear Magic Words,

I have a question about the almighty Alan Moore. Many people love his writing and cite him as an influence. But what's Alan Moore's favorite comic?

Mike Wages
Woodstock, GA

The author of the "America's Best Comics" line really doesn't like to play favorites. "That's touchy," Moore says. "Any 'favorite' comic of mine changes from day to day, and is never wholly inclusive. All I can really say is that my favorite writers who have had an influence on me are Harvey Kurtzman and Will Eisner. But even saying that, I've omitted loads of others."

Dear Magic Words,

1) Whatever happened to Dale Keown's incredibly cool book *Pitt*?

2) Is Colleen Doran still working on *A Distant Soil*? It hasn't been on the racks at my local shop.

David Webb
London, Ontario, Canada

HEY! IT'S PEN PALS...

Send your name, address, age, sex, e-mail address and three favorite titles to Pen Pals, c/o the "Magic Words" address at the end of this column (put your age on the envelope). Pre-'98 entrants: Please resend your entries.

X-FACTORS AFTER A BROOD QUEEN HATCHED FROM HIS ORIGINAL BODY, PROF. XAVIER'S BRAIN WAS PLACED INTO A CLONED BODY WITH HEALTHY LEGS. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY WERE LATER CRUSHED IN A FIGHT WITH THE SHADOW KING. (*UNCANNY X-MEN* #167, #280)

1) What happened? Nothing much since February 1999. That's when *Pitt* #20, the last issue featuring Keown's hulking hero, came out. But Keown swears up and down that a three-issue mini-series he's writing, penciling and inking called *Pitt: Biogenesis* will start in August. A better bet for on-time delivery? The Moore Creations Pitt action figure in early 2001.

Dale Keown was once one of comics' hottest artists back 'round 1995 or so, but got sidetracked playing in a band. Even though he still has six bass guitars, he's outta the music biz, and says he's been spending most of his time getting acquainted with the Internet and building his Website at www.fullbleed.com.

2) Well, kick your local shop in the ass. Issue #29 of Doran's tale of a young girl who's born the heir to an alien religious dynasty hit in March, and *A Distant Soil* #30 is on schedule for July. Which isn't to say that she ain't keepin' busy elsewhere, too. Doran penciled Marvel's *Mutant X 2000* annual and she'll be handling art on the upcoming *Power Pack* mini-series.

Dear All-knowing Master,

I was wondering when Marvel is going to wake up and reprint all of Frank Miller's *Daredevil* run. There are only two out of a possible seven trade paperbacks they could do! Do you know if Marvel has any plans to do more?

Ethan Stormright
ghand@total.net

They do. But it might take just a little while. At least one *Daredevil Visionaries* collection (and maybe even multiple volumes!) of Miller stuff is planned for late 2000 or early 2001. And if ya ask reeeeal nice, Marvel might even collect the Frank Miller/Bill Sienkiewicz *Elektra: Assassin* mini-series.

Hi *Wizard*,

I have been a Transformers fan for many years now, and I just heard a rumor that Marvel might reprint the old 1980s *Transformers* comics. Is this true?

Right now, back issues of the comic are hard to come by, and ironically enough, they're some of Marvel's hottest selling comics today.

Metesh P. Lad
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Ya ever notice that as soon as you get disposable income, you buy your childhood back...at 10 times the original cost?

open a new door to the world of comic books & art

midtowncomics.com

Spider-Man TM and ©2000 Marvel Comics. All rights reserved.

The largest online selection of new comics, graphic novels, statues & everything related.
Secure online shopping - Worldwide shipping

15% OFF ALL COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

MIDTOWN COMICS TIMES SQUARE, NYC

200 W. 40TH ST. CORNER OF 7TH AVE., NYC 10018
1(800)411-3341 OR (212)302-8192

KENNY KNAPP
Age: 16 Sex: Male
P.O. Box 24062
Baltimore, MD 21227
Likes: *Sandman, Faust, Cry for Dawn*

SHAINA PRADO
Age: 13 Sex: Female
947 Horseshoe Lake Road
Lincolnton, NC 28092
Likes: *WWF*

JOHN HOVEY
Age: 32 Sex: Male
34833 North P.O. Box 1059
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1059
Likes: *Sailor Moon, Simpsons,* horror movies

PIERRE-LUC THERRIEN
Age: 19 Sex: Male
1396 St. Luc, L'Ancienne-Lorette
Quebec, Canada G2E 1V1
Likes: Frank Miller, Neil Gaiman, Charles Vess

MYRIAM ELLINGHAUS
Age: 18 Sex: Female
Gneisenaustr. 217
47057 Duisburg, Germany
Likes: "Blade," "Matrix," *Star Wars*

PATRICK SHATZ
Age: 31 Sex: Male
144 2nd Avenue SE #22
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 2K7
Canada
Likes: *JSA, Tellos, Rising Stars*

JAIME AGUIRRE
Age: 26 Sex: Male
Rt. 2 Box 500-666879
Childress, TX 79201
Likes: *Spider-Man, Star Wars, X-Men*

QUICK HITS

"Why isn't the Galactus saga from *Fantastic Four* (vol. 1) #48-#50 on the list of your 40 'Greatest Comics Ever' [*Wizard* #105]? This is Stan Lee and Jack Kirby at their best!"

—Mike Costantino, mcspiderman@aol.com

"Thanks for the 'Hang Ten' 10 greatest creators [*Wizard* #105]. It's nice to see some old-time greats like Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Siegel and Shuster and Will Eisner in your magazine."

—Neil Simmons, Granada Hills, CA

"I have a BIG complaint about the 'Greatest Characters Ever' list [*Wizard* #105]. Why are there NO women? I think most readers will agree that there are several strong, intelligent, resourceful female characters in comics. The exclusion of female characters from your list has done a grave disservice to the fans, to the industry and to your magazine."

—Karen R. Daniel, grimfairy@hotmail.com

"EVERYBODY wants an Avengers/JLA crossover. And that's what we got in *Wizard* #105 ['Last Team Standing.'] We finally had a glimpse of what could have been!"

—Bernardo Berton, opn@ig.com.br

"Okay, *Punisher* is good again. We get the point. What have you done now, three big articles ['Reload!,' *Wizard* #105]? Focus on something else for a change."

—James Blakely, Encino, CA

"Is that Joe Madureira art I saw on the 'Gekido' video game ad [*Wizard* #105]? Now we know why we haven't seen *Battle Chasers*..."

—Will Simons, Vancouver, B.C., Canada

"So now there's a 'Strip Tease' on this new manga-Vampirella *Vampi* thing [*Wizard* #105]? I guess it's not a joke, after all."

—Tom Karnowski, Minneapolis, MN

LEE & KIRBY'S GALACTUS

CHOOSE THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS

WOULDJA RATHER...?

...be the A.I.M. agent in charge of washing MODOK or fart weebles?

Fans polled at wizardworld.com:
37% wash MODOK
63% fart weebles

PHOTO BY PAUL SCIBILIA

Well, the wave of '80s nostalgia is upon us. And the generation that grew up on Ms. Pac-Man and Guns 'n' Roses is now in control of our entertainment dollar. As I shudder at that fact, Marvel Czar of Information Bill Rosemann provides enlightenment: "Who gave you this rumor, a Decepticon?" Czar Bill asks. "The current popularity of *Transformers* (and *G.I. Joe*!) back issues has us investigating the possibilities. However, I'm guessing that copyright wrangling would make a paperback collection cost prohibitive. Bottom line: You have a good idea, Metesh. So I guess when it comes to this rumor, there's more than meets the eye!"

Jim,

1) Don't you ever get tired of all the stupid questions that people ask month after month?

2) Is there a marketing benefit to those tabloid-sized books that DC has put out recently, such as *Superman: Peace on Earth* and *Batman: War on Crime*? I know they want to show off the impressive Alex Ross artwork, but those things are a pain in the butt to store safely.

3) Whatever happened to David Mazzuchelli? He was the greatest Daredevil artist I've ever seen, and he collaborated with Frank Miller on perhaps the greatest DD storyarc of all time. If I can't get him back on a monthly, can I at least get my hands on some of his original artwork?

Paul Green
green@greenwebs.com

1) Like this one?

2) The benefit is that in addition to comic stores, those books are sold in reg'lar bookstores such as Barnes & Noble, where comics rarely tread. "The size means that those things are *noticed*, bottom line," says Alex Ross. "That's good exposure and that's something our industry needs."

Ross' co-conspirator, writer Paul Dini, offers a storage solution: "I put them between two large-size hardbound art books. It's not as good as being able to store them with your comics, but it'll do. Once we get *Shazam* and *Wonder Woman* finished, there's talk of a hardbound bookshelf collection. That'll be better."

3) Mazzuchelli is doing only occasional comic work. He recently helped out inking Dini's *Jingle Belle* #1 from Oni Press, and is set to pencil a few pages in the Evan Dorkin-written *World's Funnest* spoof due out this November.

But artwork? Get in line. Art collectors everywhere want rare Mazzuchelli originals. In fact, "Clerks" TV series writer/executive producer and high-octane comic art geek Dave Mandel is currently on the prowl for anything and everything Mazzuchelli. "The fact that he won't sell any of his art makes me want it that much more," says Mandel. "David, if you're reading this, please call me."

Yeah, please! 'Cause all transactions that originate through "Magic Words" are subject to a 10% finder's fee. Las Vegas, here I come!

BRANDON MILES
Age: 16 Sex: Male
6612 S 254 E Avenue
Broken Arrow, OK 74014
Likes: anime, playing bass guitar, *Wizard*

MATT STATEN
Age: 12 Sex: Male
400 S. Main Avenue
Sylacauga, AL 35150
Likes: anime, video games, wrestling

BILLY HORNER
Age: 32 Sex: Male
P.O. Box 1989
Keystone Hts, FL 32656
Likes: *Wonder Woman, JLA*, X-Men

RYAN SOLES
Age: 17 Sex: Male
4293 Honey Hill Road
Halisboro, NC 28442
Likes: *X-Men, Uncanny X-Men, Witchblade*

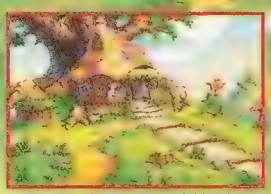
DEAN J. PARKER
Age: 21 Sex: Male
959 Dahlgren Rd. P.O. Box 3038
Dahlgren, VA 22448
Likes: *Dawn*, X-titles, *Kiss: The Psycho Circus*

SHANE WEBB
Age: 16 Sex: Male
8214 W. Potter Road
Flushing, MI 48433
Likes: Spider-titles, X-titles, *Thunderbolts*

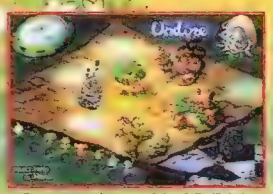
JENNIFER HILL
Age: 15 Sex: Female
P.O. Box 643
Monroeville, AL 36461
Likes: *Catwoman, Batman*, anime

X-FACTORS
ONCE A MEMBER OF THE NEW BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS, ROGUE SOUGHT OUT XAVIER'S HELP CONTROLLING HER POWERS. WHEN HE SAW HER HEROIC POTENTIAL, SHE JOINED THE TEAM. (AVENGERS ANNUAL #10, UNCANNY X-MEN #158, #171)

LEGEND OF MANA™



Unlock the secrets within this long-lost place and time



Recreate the world of Fa'Diel with powerful artifacts

Explore and battle in this immense, unique land

Experience a story of incredible depth and flexibility

T-TEEN
T
CONTENT RATED BY ESRB
Mild Animated Violence
Suggestive Themes

© 1999, 2000 Square Co., Ltd. All rights reserved. SQUARE SOFT and the SQUARESOFT logos are registered trademarks of Square Co., Ltd. LEGEND OF MANA is a trademark of Square Co., Ltd. PlayStation and the PlayStation logos are registered trademarks of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. The ratings icon is a trademark of the Interactive Digital Software Association.

SQUARESOFT®

www.squaresoft.com

Published by Square Electronic Arts L.L.C.

PlayStation®

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Can you smell the pumpkin pie yet? Okay, so maybe Halloween's a few months away but *Wizard*'s ninth annual Halloween Costume Contest is well underway! And we want YOU to dress up like your favorite character! Just whip up the best costume, and you can take home a $2,500 gift certificate to Toys 'R' Us!

WIN $2,500!

JUST DO IT

Create the funkiest costume around, but make sure you follow these simple rules:

1) Dress up like anyone (or anything) you want—comic book character, video game character, action figure, something out of a book or movie, whatever (the more original, the better your chances).

2) The actual costume itself must be HOMEMADE, but you can add store-bought items to accent it, like a surfboard for your Silver Surfer costume.

3) Have someone photograph you in your costume (Polaroids will NOT be accepted!), then write your name, age, full address, phone number and name of your character on a small piece of paper, attach it to the back of the photo and send it to the address below. All photos must be color prints, and we suggest taking multiple shots with multiple poses in case some pictures blow. And remember to focus!

4) To be eligible to win, **WE MUST RECEIVE YOUR PHOTO BY AUGUST 1, 2000**, so get sewin'!

Send your entry to:
Costume Contest 9
c/o Wizard Entertainment
151 Wells Ave.
Congers, NY 10920-0118

Hey Jumpin' Jim,

I know you've been doing "Magic Words" for close to forever and I was wondering what was...

1) The best question you ever received?
2) The funniest letter you received?

Bob Eddy
Bradford, PA

1) The one from someone looking for art info. He asked how to become a better comic book "drawer."
2) "Dear Ms. McLauchlin, You smell like my dog's butt" from Anonymous.

Dear *Wizard*,

1) Why is it so damn hard to be a philosophy major?
2) Why can't I work for *Wizard*?
3) Why can't I draw better?

Bradley Trousdale
Tuscaloosa, AL

1) Because society tries very hard to steer you into doing something that's actually productive.
2) We only accept philosophy majors.
3) Just a guess here, but probably because you're from Alabama.

Well, looks like I better cancel that trip to Birmingham and Mobile. No biggie. I never liked grits anyway. Until next month, I remain...

—Jim McLauchlin

Jim McLauchlin allowed his new fiancée to choose a duvet cover for their soon-to-be marital bed. But there will be no dust ruffle! He's still a man, hot dammit!

Send letters to:
Magic Words
151 Wells Ave.
Congers, NY 10920
or e-mail us at JMcLauch@aol.com

Please address all subscription concerns to:
Customer Service
c/o Wizard Entertainment Group
P.O. Box 656
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Please address all #1/2-issue and action-figure concerns to:
Customer Service
c/o Wizard Entertainment Group
151 Wells Ave.
Congers, NY 10920
(914) 268-3594
(Please include your full name, address and phone number and be as detailed as possible.)

X-FACTORS

PROFESSOR XAVIER ORIGINALLY MET STORM LONG BEFORE SHE ASSUMED HER ROLE AS AN AFRICAN GODDESS. AS A YOUNG GIRL, ORORO ONCE PICKED XAVIER'S POCKET ON THE STREETS OF CAIRO. (*UNCANNY X-MEN* #117)

HAVE YOU FOUND IT ROBIN?
IT'S AMAZING BATMAN! AT TOYSNCOMICS.COM, I CAN SEARCH THROUGH THREE MONTHS WORTH OF DIAMOND COMIC CATALOGS ONLINE.
Mark Simon

Batman and all related characters, names, and indicia are trademarks of DC Comics © 2000. All rights reserved. Batman created by Bob Kane. Previews Catalog is a property of Diamond Comics.

TOYSNCOMICS.COM

- WIN the first full-sized Batman porcelain statue—a $1,200 value! (See details online.)
- The only online Diamond Catalog and Card Shop—3 months of catalogs online!
- Great discounts for comics reservists with no confusing tier discount structure, and you're never charged until your order ships!

Order online: www.toysncomics.com or Call: 1-800-294-8590

KIDS ROCK Teenage Spidey & Wolverine battle bad guys, homework and acne.

ULTIMATE MARVEL

'Spider-Man,' 'X-Men' to be relaunched from ground zero

Get ready for the Marvel renaissance.

The gang at the House of Ideas aims to wrangle new readers into the world of comicdom with "Ultimate Marvel," a new line of comics hitting in September that'll introduce readers to modernized, "ground zero" versions of classic Marvel characters.

Spinning off the untouched classic Marvel Universe, the Ultimate plan will begin with updated versions of Spider-Man and X-Men, and—ultimately—extend to nearly every Marvel title.

"It is a relaunching of Spider-Man as Stan Lee envisioned him, but written as if the events started today," said rising comic star Brian Michael Bendis, who's taken on the task of returning Spidey and the X-Men to their teenage roots. "There is nothing we are doing that isn't in the spirit of the theme and characters that were originally invented. The only thing we are doing is freeing the characters from 40 *loooong* years of continuity."

In other words, no clones.

No marriage.

No baby.

Under the watchful eyes of Bendis and veteran Spider-Man artist Mark Bagley, Peter Parker's gonna be an average, run-of-the-mill 16-year-old who's got an after-school job at the local paper's Website.

Okay, so he'll be an average 16-year-old *Daily Bugle* freelancer with the proportionate speed and strength of a spider, but Bendis and Bagley promise they'll make him as much an "Everyteen" as possible.

"The idea of the X-Men and Spider-Man as teenagers is hardly earth-shattering," said Bill Jemas, Marvel's president of publishing and Ultimate head honcho. "But our need as an industry is to reach out to teens and new readers. We figured that taking the best character family ever and the best single character ever and bringing them back to their teen years was a good way to do this."

While the plot for the 48-page debut issue of Ultimate Spider-Man remains a secret, Bagley hinted Spidey's #1 villain may just be a certain green-skinned goblin...with a new look, of course.

"They've basically given me carte blanche with the characters, so I guess it's my job to mess with them," he said. "Like for Norman Osborn (the original Green Goblin), Bendis' notes suggested that he might be a Brian Dennehy lookalike, so I'm looking in that direction."

Bendis will apply that same sort of revisionist history to the "Ultimate X-Men." The newest title chronicling the exploits of Marvel's merry mutants is still in its early stages, but the Xavier-led team of teenagers will reportedly consist of Storm, Cyclops, Phoenix, Gambit and Rogue, with the occasional assist from Wolverine.

X-FACTORS XAVIER ONCE GOT A SHAPESHIFTER NAMED CHANGELING TO ASSUME HIS IDENTITY WHILE HE PREPARED FOR AN ALIEN INVASION. WHEN CHANGELING DIED IN BATTLE, THE X-MEN HELD A FUNERAL FOR THEIR MENTOR. (*UNCANNY X-MEN* #42)

"The only thing we are doing is freeing the characters from 40 loooong years of continuity."
—Brian Michael Bendis

No artist has been named yet for the X-book, but the characters will supposedly have costumes more akin to those in the "X-Men" movie. Quite fitting, actually, since Jemas will use this summer's mutant blockbuster, as well as merchandise and fast-food tie-ins, to distribute 12 million free copies of "Ultimate Marvel."

"As far as the marketing goes, I am all for it. Get them hooked," Bendis said. "X-Men, Spider-Man, they are very popular characters...People know them, so we need to make people want to read about them in the art form in which they were invented."

But what about the *books* in which they were invented? Will the current ongoing X-Men and Spider-Man books be influenced by their Ultimate counterparts? Will the younger, unmarried Ultimate Spidey affect his "older brother?" Don't sweat it, Jemas said.

"People are already asking us, 'What will you do?' Well, the answer is that both characters will live long and prosper. The existing Spider-Man will go on untouched. There is a religious fervor that exists in comics and has grown up around these characters. The classics are the classics and that's that. That'll never change."

Bendis does represent something of a change for Marvel, however, since his body of professional work leans more toward crime fiction than superhero epics. So why'd Jemas pick Bendis? Thank Marvel Knights editor Joe Quesada.

"Bill was looking for a guy with 'the stuff' to write this," Quesada recalled. "I recommended Bendis, and fortunately I had a stack of his books right there. Bill brought them home and read them, then came in the next morning and said, 'He's the guy.' "

In all, Jemas hopes Bendis—and Ultimate—will make Marvel stronger. "There are many reasons we're doing this," he said. "One is that we think it'll be financially successful. But we also want to do this because these books tell a story we want to tell."

In fact, Jemas said he expects the Ultimate line to last forever.

"They'll be set up as ongoing series, and if we're good, we'll get 40 years of mileage out of these," he said. "Ultimately, I'd like to 'Ultimate' almost everything in the Marvel line. Obviously, it's not going to work for everybody. It's just not going to work for Nick Fury, and I think the Fantastic Four work well at their age now."

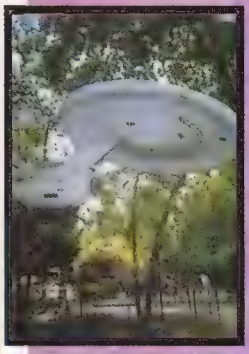
And Ultimate won't necessarily take away from anything else Marvel does. "Coca-Cola has an orange juice, but that doesn't mean they do any less Coca-Cola," Jemas said. "We will always publish comic books. We're America's storyteller."

And a storyteller with big goals. "We'll consider ourselves failed in this if we do not bring in 100,000 new readers," Jemas said.

■ JIM McLAUCHLIN AND CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE

Laser eye surgery goes awry. "I'm blind AND none of my hats fit right," said now-ostracized member of society.

Last remaining Cabbage Patch Dolls on Earth finally purchased. "We found the last two people who'd never gotten them in the '80s," said Mattel spokesman. "Now our mission on Earth is complete."



Starship Enterprise found in local park. "Hey I found the Starship Enterprise in a park!" said kid who found the Starship Enterprise in a park.

MEETTHENEWMR.MARVEL

LIFE OF BRIAN

Just who is this Brian Michael Bendis guy, anyway?

Apart from being hand-picked to script the first two comics–*Spider-Man* and *X-Men*–in Marvel's upcoming "Ultimate Marvel" line, Bendis created the Image graphic novels *Goldfish*, *Jinx* and *Torso*–three of the most gripping, intelligent pieces of crime fiction available today.

That won him an Eisner Award.

He also wrote and penciled Oni Press' *Fortune and Glory*, a comic mini-series that tells of his personal adventures in Hollywood.

It made him the talk of Tinseltown.

Since then, he's taken over the writing duties on *Sam and Twitch*, signed on to script *Spawn the Undead* and launched the red-hot *Powers* ongoing series.

He's gained a legion of fans along the way...and some rather high-powered supporters. Guys like Todd McFarlane and Marvel Knights editor Joe Quesada swear by the guy. In fact, Quesada actually sought Bendis out for a *Daredevil* gig after reading his earlier work, and wound up turning Ultimate Marvel guru Bill Jemas onto his stuff.

BENDIS

"(Bendis) does some of the best, fastest, hottest dialogue in the business. And he's got a real sense of modern-day society," Jemas said. "Bob Harras and I laid out a plot–which was basically me writing it out, then Bob telling me what would work and what wouldn't, all the while saying, 'Yes, Mr. Harras' and Brian took it to a level I couldn't even believe. It's amazing..."

Speaking of amazed, Bendis himself is thoroughly pumped about working in the Ultimate Marvel Universe.

"I am totally thrilled out of my mind to be doing Spider-Man," he said. "I am Peter Parker. "Except for the cool powers and hip job." ■ CL

THE BUZZBIN

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE COMIC INDUSTRY

TOP COW CORNUCOPIA! There will be a Darkness/Witchblade/Aliens/Predator crossover from Top Cow/Dark Horse coming up this fall.

BATMAN OUT! Word around DC Comics has it that by the end of writer Mark Waid's first *JLA* storyarc, Batman will no longer be a member of the team. At least for a while...

BATMAN

MORRISON MARVELS! Marvel Knights is reportedly negotiating future projects with *Marvel Boy* scribe Grant Morrison. Could it involve sequels? More of the Skrull Kill Krew? Or maybe Morrison's rather "unique" take on the Fantastic Four...

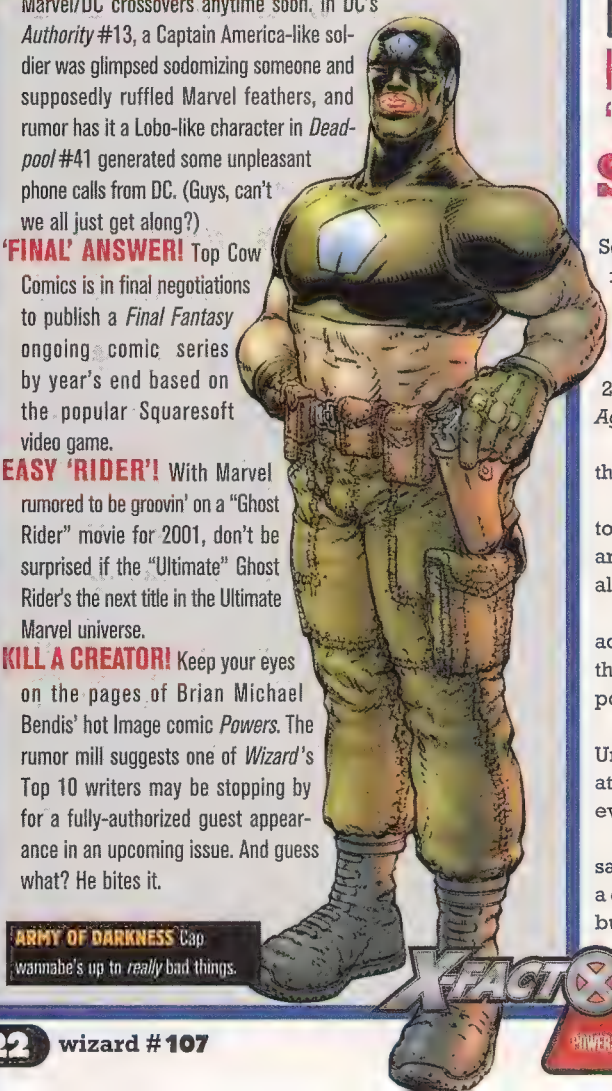
LEAGUE 2! Alan Moore has already started writing the much-anticipated sequel to *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, due out from DC in 2001. The sequel will star the familiar cast from the first series–Alan Quatermain, the Invisible Man, Mina Murray, Captain Nemo and Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde–and not the 18th-century League that included Natty Bumpo and was pictured in one panel of the series, as many rumors have suggested.

MARVEL/DC...NO MORE! Don't count on any intercompany Marvel/DC crossovers anytime soon. In DC's *Authority* #13, a Captain America-like soldier was glimpsed sodomizing someone and supposedly ruffled Marvel feathers, and rumor has it a Lobo-like character in *Deadpool* #41 generated some unpleasant phone calls from DC. (Guys, can't we all just get along?)

'FINAL' ANSWER! Top Cow Comics is in final negotiations to publish a *Final Fantasy* ongoing comic series by year's end based on the popular Squaresoft video game.

EASY 'RIDER'! With Marvel rumored to be groovin' on a "Ghost Rider" movie for 2001, don't be surprised if the "Ultimate" Ghost Rider's the next title in the Ultimate Marvel universe.

KILL A CREATOR! Keep your eyes on the pages of Brian Michael Bendis' hot Image comic *Powers*. The rumor mill suggests one of *Wizard*'s Top 10 writers may be stopping by for a fully-authorized guest appearance in an upcoming issue. And guess what? He bites it.



ARMY OF DARKNESS Cap wannabe's up to *really* bad things.

GREEN QUEEN Ollie's lean, mean and his eyeballs can't be seen!

SMITH SHOOTS FROM THE HIP

Hotshot Kevin takes aim at 'Green Arrow' relaunch

Some things are worth waiting for; just ask DC Senior Editor Bob Schreck.

After more than a year of speculation and promises, Schreck said Kevin Smith's much anticipated *Green Arrow* relaunch is finally on DC's front burner. Although there's no assigned artist yet and only Smith's plot is in DC's hands, both the writer and editorial team said they'd like to see the project in stores by the first quarter of 2001, just before Frank Miller's *Dark Knight Strikes Again* launches.

Schreck said the 12-issue maxi-series will be something to look forward to.

"It's a great story," Schreck said. "He's got it all together. He knew what needed to be done and people are going to walk away from this really happy. He solves all sorts of problems and dangling questions."

Much like his acclaimed run on *Daredevil*, Smith, according to Schreck, will most likely make his mark with the maxi-series and then hand it off to another writer for a possible ongoing series.

Although the planned return of Oliver Queen to the DC Universe and the role of Green Arrow are still top secret at DC, Schreck said it's not going to be the type of return everyone imagined.

"There's some really interesting surprises," Schreck said. "People are going to stand up and say, 'Huh?' but in a good way. Stuff's coming down that you wouldn't expect but he makes it all work." ■ **MIKE COTTON**

X-FACTORS A CROWD ONCE ATTACKED MAGNETO, PREVENTING HIM FROM RESCUING HIS DAUGHTER ANYA. FROM A FIRE. ENRAGED, HE USED HIS NEWLY MANIFESTED POWERS TO SLAY THE MOB AND THE INNOCENT ONLOOKERS. (*CLASSIC X-MEN* #12)

'SEXBOT' TO SEDUCE READERS

Top Cow rolls out summer's hottest vixen, 'Aphrodite IX'

Get ready to fall in love this August. Just be careful—it might kill you.

Just like the last two summers, Top Cow Comics will launch a brand new series. With previous hits *Fathom* and *Rising Stars* under its belt, Top Cow and writer David Wohl can't wait for fans to latch onto *Aphrodite IX*.

"It's going to be the coolest story of the year," Wohl said.

Originally titled *Sexbot*, *Aphrodite IX* tells the tale of a high-tech and gorgeous female android trained to kill, who then forgets what she's done and where she's come from. Wohl, along with artist David Finch, promised a ton of action and a heap of mystery as the series takes off.

"Imagine what it would be like if every once and a while you just totally forgot what you were doing, who you were, what your life was about and you didn't know when it was going to happen," Wohl said. "You'd have to find ways to tell yourself what had happened or else you'd end up in weird situations."

Intrigue becomes a story point when the people who created Aphrodite, and the forces that wanted her created, vie for sole possession of her. So Aphrodite has to decide if she's a hero or a villain and the lines aren't easily defined.

"She does some bad things," Wohl said. "But she learns from that stuff. She's not happy with the past she does remember or what she learns. Ultimately, it's about bad people in a future where people are barely human. They eat, they sleep but are they really human anymore?" MC

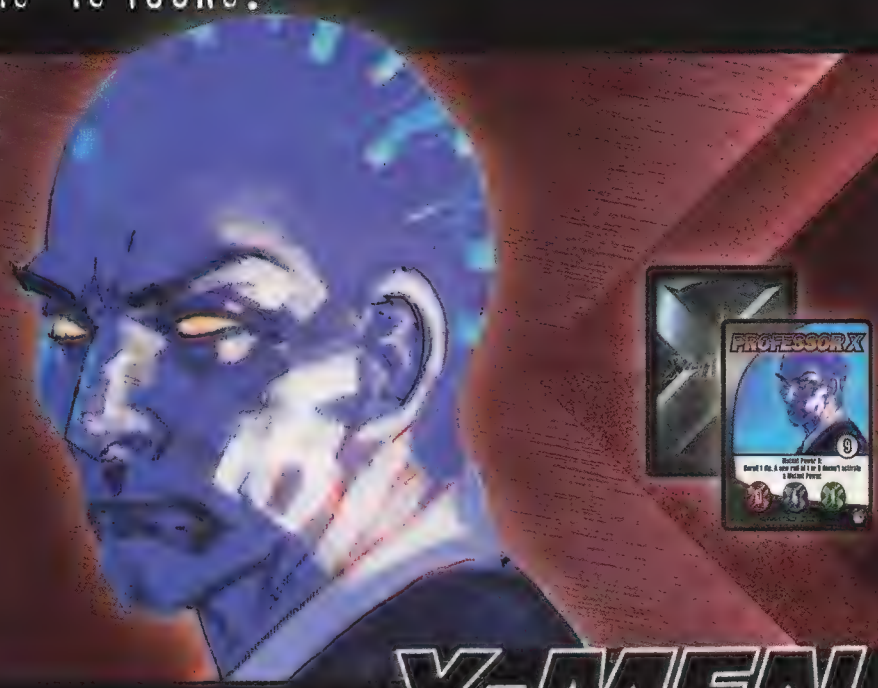
MINDLESS Aphrodite IX (right) forgets a lot o' things. Here, she clearly forgot her pants.

THE ONLY MIND STRONG ENOUGH TO CONTROL HIS—IS YOURS.

Only the sharpest minds can make the toughest choices. And in a havoc strewn battlefield, quick thinkers prevail. Start with a relatively easy decision. Get the **X-Men**® trading card game and take the characters from the movie into battles of your own creation. It doesn't take a mental giant to see the fun here.

The **X-Men** trading card game. It's your turn to seize control.

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:
STARTER SET - JULY 2000
BOOSTERS - AUGUST 2000



X-MEN®
TRADING CARD GAME

MARVEL

SUPERPOWERS COLLIDE

'Maximum Security' crossover spans Marvel titles

Marvel is locking up its fall schedule with Maximum Security.

The House of Ideas returns to the concept of the company-wide crossover this fall with "Maximum Security," an epic saga that will extend through most of Marvel's ongoing titles.

"It's a big, sprawling, space-faring Marvel Universe story that involves any number of your favorite characters," editor Tom Brevoort said. "This is really the first time we've done a crossover of this scale since 'Onslaught' back in '96."

The project kicks off with September's *Maximum Security: Dangerous Planet*, a one-shot by Kurt Busiek and Jerry Ordway that sets the stage for the crossover, the bulk of which hits in October.

The great galactic powers of the Marvel Universe convene in the crossover's prologue, gathering to discuss their plans for the denizens of Earth.

"Humanity's proven itself to be a dangerous species, interfering and getting involved in events on a galactic scale," Brevoort revealed. "And they (the cosmic-level beings) discuss what they can do to alleviate those problems, in a theoretically-humane, but ultimately effective, manner."

Their decision—and its method of implementation—will lead directly to the events of Marvel's long-planned, all-star crossover.

"Different little seeds have been laid all across the Marvel Universe in various books for the last year and a half," Brevoort said. "There are a whole bunch of different things, odds and ends and various threads that will come together, hopefully in a nice package."

It's a package that'll include three additional Busiek/Ordway "Maximum Security" issues, from which the main storyline will spread out into the participating Marvel titles.

"All the major houses will be represented in one degree or another, but how this will impact their individual continuities varies from character to character," Brevoort said. "Hopefully it will have some significance in that regard across the whole of the Marvel line." ■ CL

DON'T DROP THE SOAP Did Galactus' death spark "Maximum Security?"

RECRUITING AN OLD FRIEND

Green Lantern Corps re-enlists Marz for GL/Aliens crossover

Ron Marz can't get the Corps out of his system.

The Green Lantern Corps, that is.

Marz, the writer who left DC's emerald hero behind to forge a new future with CrossGen Comics, returns to his ring-slinging ways for *Green Lantern Vs. Aliens*, a four-issue Dark Horse mini-series scheduled to ship in September.

"It's a logical pairing," Marz said. "You've got a couple of outer space concepts coming together."

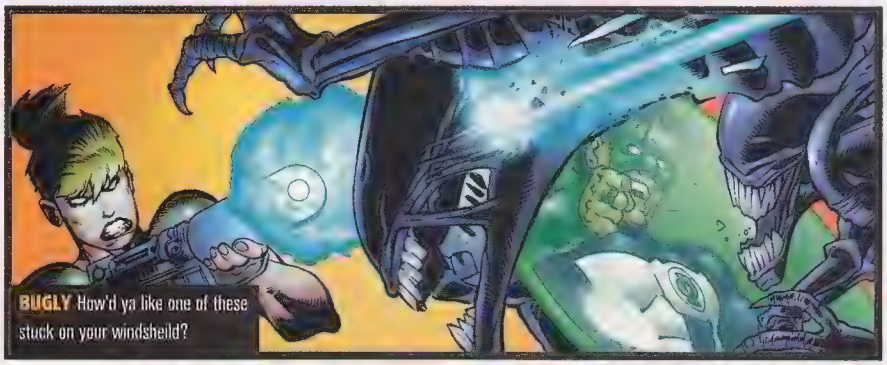
The series begins 10 years in the past, zeroing in on the initial skirmish between famed Green Lantern Hal Jordan (along with several other Corps members) and a bevy of Hollywood's most frightening film villains.

"A lot of what that issue's about is how do the Green Lanterns deal with the Aliens," Marz said. "Do they wipe them out? Do they treat them as intelligent beings?"

The final three issues revolve around current Lantern Kyle Rayner, who deals with the aftermath.

Kyle's reaction is a bit different than Hal's, Marz revealed, if only because he's at something of a disadvantage.

"Kyle will lose his ring," the writer disclosed. "That kind of puts a different spin on how you face up to these things. If you have a power ring, you can afford to be fairly kind and generous. If you don't...that might change how you deal with them." ■ CL



BUGLY How'd ya like one of these stuck on your windshield?

X-FACTORS ALTHOUGH A TEAM FOR MUTANTS, THE X-MEN HAVE HAD HUMAN MEMBERS ALSO: THE MIMIC, WHO COULD DUPLICATE OTHER SUPERPOWERS; LONG-SHOT, A GENETICALLY ENGINEERED HUMANOID; AND THE SHAPESHIFTER CHANGELING.

X-MEN WATCH

Shaft's got one. So does *Mission Impossible.* Now Wolverine's got his own a theme song, too.

Well, not an authorized one, but one that's definitely worth hearing.

The producers of the upcoming "X-Men" movie may have overlooked the issue, but the gang at ModernHumorist.com **[www.modernhumorist.com]** made sure Wolvie didn't start the summer movie season without his own song–a tune brought to life by the vocal talents of Jewel...or at least a talented imitator.

Sung to the tune of "Hands," the Wolverine theme includes lyrics like: "My mutant chromosomes/And the strong metal in my bones/Help me fight Sentinel robot drones/And I heal very quickly."

And it's a catchy tune–"X-Men" executive producer Tom DeSanto admits he can't get enough of it.

"It was very funny," DeSanto said. "It's things like that which make four years worth of work worth it. It's hilarious. You can tell a fan really came up with those lyrics."

Marvel and 20th Century Fox will hand out three million free movie-exclusive *X-Men The Movie: Wolverine* comics at theaters that show the "X-Men" movie. The freebies will be variations on a theme, capturing most of the regular *X-Men The Movie: Wolverine* comic available in stores.

The changes keep coming for *X-Men: Children of the Atom.* The final two issues of the six-issue mini-series, which fell prey to extensive delays under illustrators Steve Rude and Paul Smith, will be penciled by Croatian artist Essad Ribic. The issues will hit in June and July.

Artist Tom Lyle will take over the penciling duties on *Mutant X* with July's issue #23. In addition, Michael Golden has been named the series' regular cover artist.

A three-issue Wolverine/Psylocke mini-series is in the works at the House of Ideas. The as-yet-unscheduled series teams veteran X-Men writer Joe Pruett with *X-Men: Children of the Atom* artist Essad Ribic.

Wolverine's getting a new look.

Or maybe it's a new old look.

Either way, X-fans can look forward to a 62-page Wolverine graphic novel that chronicles the adventures of a much-older Logan in a future time. Written by *Bishop* scribe Joseph Harris, the book will be fully painted by Argentinean artist Enrique Breccia. The as-yet-untitled graphic novel is tentatively scheduled for release later this year.

NEW WRINKLE
Wolverine gets old.

SHOPPING MAUL

Dark Horse pieces Darth back together for mini-series

Evil. Silent. Ruthless. Side-splitting.

Descriptions like these are just a few ways fans remember Darth Maul, arguably the most popular character from "Star Wars: Episode I." However, after the character's untimely and unexpected demise, admirers of the all-action, no-talk Sith Apprentice craved for more, and thanks to Dark Horse Comics, more Maul is what they're going to get.

Darth Maul, a four-issue mini-series coming in September from Dark Horse, penciled by Jan Duursema and written by "huge Darth Maul fan" Ron Marz, chronicles the events leading up to Darth Sidious' rise to power and the Trade Federation's blockade seen in "The Phantom Menace." However don't expect Maul to be the bad guy in this series.

"The storyline is very basic," said Marz. "It's Darth Maul versus Black Sun, an intergalactic criminal organization which appeared in the *Dark Empire* books. So basically it's a bad guy against even badder guys who do much worse than Darth Maul. So fans will have the opportunity to actually cheer for him in this series."

As for getting a glimpse into Maul's origin, Marz says don't expect that either. "Lucasfilm wouldn't let us explore his back history, but we do reveal some neat stuff," said Marz. "In issue one we see Maul without a shirt so you get to see his tattoos from the neck down. Also, you get to see Darth Sidious present Maul with the Sith Infiltrator (the bike Maul rode after Qui-Gonn in 'Episode I')."

As for Marz and the creative team responsible for putting words into the mouth of the otherwise silent Maul, he couldn't be more excited, "Everyone working on this project is still pinching themselves," Marz said. "In my opinion, he's the coolest character of all the movies so far." ■ CASEY SEIJAS

REUNITED And it feels so good.

SOLD, BY GEORGE!

Pérez 'Last Man Standing' art nets $6,302, Jusko auction next

George Pérez will take an ocean voyage to Scandinavia this summer...paid for by his maiden voyage into the world of online auctions.

The "ultimate George Pérez fan collector piece," a spread depicting a battle between the Justice League of America and the Mighty Avengers, sold on the eBay auction site [**www.ebay.com**] in May for a whopping $6,302.

"I was stunned," Pérez said of the results. "I'm quite pleased."

The online battle for the art, which appeared in the "Last Man Standing" feature in *Wizard* #105, was just as heated as the epic conflict depicted in Pérez's pencils.

Twelve bidders went head to head over the piece during the week-long auction, tossing out a total of 35 bids. Eventual champion Scott Isaacson delivered the winning bid just nine minutes prior to the auction's close.

So what possessed him to fork over six grand for a piece of artwork? "I'm crazy," he laughed. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance...It's just so unique."

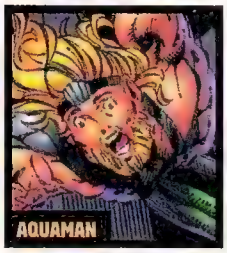
Isaacson, who was the first person to bid on the art, paid close attention to the auction's status—even more so than Pérez. The artist admitted he checked on the auction's status from time to time, but said his efforts were basically unnecessary: "I had so many people calling me and updating me on it...Most people were quite astounded."

Artist Joe Jusko hopes to duplicate Pérez's eBay success. Working in conjunction with *Wizard*, the renowned artist will auction the Sabretooth, Mystique and Professor X painted "X-Men" covers he painted for *Wizard: The Comics Magazine* #107.

The three pieces will go up for auction sequentially, with the first one beginning Monday, June 26. Check ebay.com or www.wizardworld.com for more details. ■ CL

X-FACTORS WOLVERINE'S CLAWS ACTUALLY BURST OUT RIGHT THROUGH HIS SKIN, NOT THROUGH ANY KIND OF PERMANENT HOLES. HIS MUTANT HEALING FACTOR HEALS THE WOUNDS ALMOST INSTANTLY.

AQUAMAN SUNK



Even the best characters and writers can't tread water forever—just ask Aquaman and Dan Jurgens.

After less than a year writing the series, DC Comics announced *Aquaman* will end with Novenber's issue #75. Jurgens said the announcement came as no surprise.

"When I came on the book, it wasn't in real healthy shape," Jurgens said. "I was certainly aware when I started that it was on the bottom level of DC sales. We hoped we could attract an audience but that didn't happen."

Jurgens blames the book's end on a combination of the failed relaunch prior to his arrival and the lack of publicity and attention given to the book by DC when he took over. "Then again maybe we just all failed miserably," added Jurgens. ■ MC

spawn & pals

ROCKIN' IN RIVERDALE

With the milestone *Spawn* #100 and *Archie* #500 both hitting later this year, it gives us pause to see what other similarities exist between these two wholesome, family-oriented comic books...

SPAWN	ARCHIE
OUR HERO...	
...stews in alleyways and longs to reunite with his wife.	...lays awake in bed and longs to unite with Betty. Or Veronica. Or both.
SIDEKICK	
A hairy bum in a wide-brimmed hat.	A clean-shaven bum in a Burger King crown.
CURSED WITH	
Undead damnation	Puberty
UNSTOPPABLE BALD ARCH-ENEMY	
Overtkill	Mr. Weatherbee.
METHOD OF TRAVEL	
Mystical teleportation	A jalopy (hey, it IS souped up!)
OBTAINS GOODS BY...	
...prying them from the hands of his victims.	...prying an extra buck from his neighbors after mowing their lawns.
HAS STARED INTO THE EYES OF THE SATANIC ABOMINATION KNOWN AS...	
Malebolgia	Miss Grundy

ILLUSTRATION BY ANGEL MEDINA.

PITT ©&© 2000 Dale Keown.All artwork © 2000 Dale Keown ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

NEWSFLASHES

- August will be Fathom month at Top Cow Comics and will include *Fathom* #15, four new Fathom action figures, a calendar, a swimsuit edition, a poster and a trade paperback collecting the first nine issues of the hit series.
- Geoff Johns is the permanent writer on *Flash*. He takes over the reins following Mark Waid's critically-acclaimed eight-year run.

Kyle Rayner hooks up with some new Green Lanterns in the pages of August's fifth-week event, *Green Lantern: Circle of Fire*.

Circle of Fire, a project spearheaded by *Swamp Thing* writer Brian Vaughn, deals with a new intergalactic threat, a space-faring being that has strange ties to Kyle's past. And after the JLA falls at the hands of their newest nemesis, it falls to Kyle to save the day.

GREEN LANTERN: CIRCLE OF FIRE

- *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* creator Joss Whedon's hard at work on *Fray*, an eight-issue Dark Horse mini-series centering on the exploits of a Slayer living 500 years in the future. Artists for the series, slated for later this year, have yet to be announced.
- CrossGen's already expanding its universe. Writer Barbara Kesel and the newly-signed art team of Bart Sears and Andy Smith will preside over October's *The First*, an ongoing monthly focusing on the godlike beings introduced in May's *Chronicles* #1.
- A new *Doom Patrol* ongoing from DC may launch in 2001 with writer John Arcudi and artist Kaare Andrews.
- Marvel will release a trade paperback collection of Paul Jenkins and Jae Lee's *Inhumans* maxi-series, solicited for an August release. The collection will retail for $24.95. ■ THE *WIZARD* STAFF

D'OH!!! In *Wizard* #106's "Net Gains," we reported the sales figure of *Shockrockets* #1 as 28,586 when its true sales figure numbers near 40,000. *Wizard* regrets the error. Now do yourself a favor and go buy *Shockrockets* (and all the other Gorilla books for that matter—they're good reads!). ... Also in #106's "Net Gains," we erroneously reported that erasing pencil marks on a page constituted a "restoration" when it in fact does not. ... *Star Saga* #1 has not been canceled for re-solicitation as was reported in *Wizard* #104.

A CALL FOR THE SENTRY

Marvel reintroduces long-lost character

Marvel's making up for lost time.

It's been almost 40 years since Stan Lee's forgotten hero, the Sentry, last appeared in comics, and the House of Ideas is doing all it can to rectify that situation.

Marvel Knights will release *Sentry* #1 in July, kicking off a six-part storyline reintroducing the lost character created by Lee and the late Artie Rosen into the Marvel Universe.

BURIED TREASURE This guy musta been lost for a real long time.

"There's really no way to weigh the magnitude of the Sentry's discovery for Marvel or Marvel Knights," said MK editor Joe Quesada, "but I will say this, it's really going to be a treat for the fans."

The mini-series will reunite the *Inhumans* creative team of artist Jae Lee and writer Paul Jenkins, who actually discovered the information about the Sentry amid some old files in the Marvel offices.

Lee and Rosen created the character, whom Quesada describes as a Marvel version of Superman, in 1961. He debuted in *Startling Stories* #1, a comic that shipped prior to the release of *Fantastic Four* #1, calling into question the FF's status as the heroes who kicked off the Marvel Era. ■ CL

THUMBINGOFF

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

THUMBS UP

'AUTHORITY' No offense to Warren Ellis & Bryan Hitch, but since Mark Millar and Frank Quitely took over *The Authority* (issue #13), the book's been better than ever! Now a *very* proactive militant team, the Authority's handed corrupt foreign leaders over to their angry, bloodthirsty citizens and battled an "Avengers"-like team with the 21st century at stake. It's brutal, action-packed and no-holds-barred. Perfect.

MUTANT WATCH Give Fox its props for taking a novel approach to marketing the "X-Men" movie. Those realistic Senator Kelly TV commercials urging viewers to help stop the mutant menace are awesome! Treating the whole mutant/human relations as a real problem not only gives comic fans something extra, but hopefully gets the mainstream crowd intrigued enough to see the flick.

THUMBS DOWN

MARVELS COMICS While a neat concept (the comics that characters in the Marvel Universe read), this event bombed in execution. *Captain America* was so over-the-top (the Red Skull actually said "D'oh!") it was painful, *Codename: X-Men* was a mess of depthless mutants, and *Beware the Daredevil* saw some kids hanging with a demon-possessed stuntman. Plus, nowhere did it explain the event, leaving casual readers confused.

DC'S SILVER AGE Set in the backdrop of DC's Silver Age, a powerful being helps DC's villains swap bodies with the Justice League. And *this* is an event? Super hokey and unbearably cheesy, this mini-series may have flown back in the '60s, but it does absolutely nothing except alienate today's modern readers.

X-FACTORS MR. SINISTER ONCE TOLD CYCLOPS HE'D BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON HIS BROTHERS FOR QUITE SOME TIME. THAT'S RIGHT, PLURAL, AS IN MORE THAN ONE. ALTHOUGH THE ONLY BROTHER CYCLOPS KNOWS ABOUT IS HAVOK. (*X-MEN* #23)

KNIGHT MOVES

Palmiotti tires of 'Knight' shift, line marches on without co-founder

After five years as a king of the comic imprint, Jimmy Palmiotti's abdicated his throne.

The award-winning inker's turned in the keys to the Marvel Knights post he shared with Joe Quesada, closing the book on one of the most successful team-ups in recent comic history...and kicking off a new chapter in the saga of the Knights.

Palmiotti's decision to spend more time with his ailing mother and a desire to explore different creative avenues—including writing gigs on *Deadpool* and *Gatecrasher*—contributed to his decision.

"I've got books and books full of characters and ideas," Palmiotti said. "And I feel my energy now is best spent on new things."

Quesada admits Palmiotti's departure is a radical change in the MK work environment, but said things at the Knights are "still rolling along."

In reality, Palmiotti's still a part of that roll—he'll continue to ink Steve Dillon's pencils on the remaining issues of the super-successful 12-issue *Punisher* mini-series.

Though he'll keep firing away at Frank Castle, Palmiotti's name will no longer appear regularly on the pages of *Daredevil*.

Palmiotti ended his inking run on *Daredevil* with issue #11, and following his co-writing stint on April's #12, will drop off the book altogether. Artist Mark Morales will step into Palmiotti's shoes and handle the inking chores through the end of David Mack's "Parts of a Hole" storyarc, which culminates in July.

And while Palmiotti's no longer an editor of the imprint, as an artist and freelancer, Quesada said his former partner's got an open invitation to rejoin the fold at any time. "He'll always be part of the Marvel Knights family." ■ CL

KEOWN DIVES BACK INTO 'PITT'

Dale Keown's *Pitt* is crawling out of the pit of comic limbo.

"I missed comic books and drawing stuff," said Keown, once one of comics' hottest artists, who's been on self-imposed layoff since February, 1999. "It makes me feel like I'm a kid again to be doing it again."

Keown will do it again in August with *Pitt: Biogenesis*, a three-issue mini-series published by his own Full Bleed Studios. Keown will write, pencil and ink the series, which deals with a subject he's fascinated with. "I'm obsessed with genetics," Keown admitted. "I watch a lot of Discovery Channel. I find the stuff they can do fascinating."

Pitt, Keown's hulking hybrid hero from another planet, will battle his own genes in his return. He'll also fight arch-nemesis Thinktank, the evil genius with three brains.

"There are a lotta fight scenes," Keown said. "It's comic books. What else do you want?" ■ JM

HOT FOR PREACHER

INSANITY BY THE NUMBERS

As *Preacher* comes to a close in August with issue #66, we wanted to celebrate the popular Vertigo series for its wholesome, family entertainment. Stuff like severed limbs, the s-word and sadistic sodomy. *Wizard* takes a look at the series and tallies up a number of events that would have Dr. Fredric Wertham spinning in his grave.

SEXUAL ACT 29
GENITALIA REFERENCES 95
NECROPHELIA 3
BESTIALITY 26
INCEST 5
SEX WITH CAKE 1
SEX WITH RAW MEAT 1
SODOMY 4
ANGELS HAVE SEX 4
SHOTS FIRED 503
SHOTS CONNECTED 309
PISTOL WHIPPINGS 2
SLICES, STABBINGS AND CUTS 28
OUT AND OUT BEATINGS 16
STRANGULATIONS 5
ASPHYXIATIONS 7
FOLKS THROWN OUTTA WINDOWS 10
INCINERATIONS 211
HANGINGS 6
BROKEN ARMS 3
BROKEN FINGERS 2
BROKEN NECKS 6
BITING 3
VAMPIRE BITING 3
SUICIDE 3
FAILED SUICIDE ATTEMPTS 1
CANNIBALISM, AND ALLUSIONS TO 6
FAT GUY FALLS FROM SKY 1
PEOPLE KILLED BY, AND INCLUDING, SAID FAT GUY 3
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS 15
ATOMIC BOMBS 1
CUSS WORDS
THE S-WORD IS SAID 325
THE F-WORD IS SAID 1781
ETHNIC SLURS 91
ANGELS SWEAR 31
DRUG USE 24
ANGELS' DRUG USE 3
URINATION 14
DEFECATION 7
FECES THROWN 1
VOMIT 15
TOTAL BODY COUNT 475 ■ CHRIS MURPHY

For even more twisted tallies, go to wizardworld.com.

REAL FRIENDS Judd Winick (far right) fondly remembers AIDS victim Pedro Zamora (second from right).

COURTESY MTV NETWORKS. © KEN PROBST.

A FRIEND TILL THE END

Winick's 'Pedro' offers touching look at death of 'Real Worlder'

Imagine you're 17 years old, strikingly handsome and a brilliant student. Now imagine you're going to die. Meet Pedro Zamora.

"I want people to understand what it was like to know (Pedro) and what it was like to lose him," said *Pedro and Me* writer and artist Judd Winick.

That's why Winick spent two years of his life creating the black and white, cartoon-influenced graphic novel which offers an emotionally-charged autobiographical account of the pair's friendship during the last year and a half of Zamora's life. Winick forged a friendship with the AIDS activist when the two roomed together during the filming of MTV's "The Real World: San Francisco." Zamora died of AIDS-related illness one day after the last episode of the show aired in November of 1994.

Pedro and Me will be available in bookstores the third week of August from Henry Holt and Co. Publishing. But even before its release, *Pedro and Me* is receiving acclaim from the creative community, already drawing comparisons to some of the biggest works in comics' history.

"*Pedro and Me* should be made compulsory reading," said *Sandman* creator Neil Gaiman. "It's moving, honest, funny and romantic. This is the real world in a way that a TV series never could be."

Winick—the creator of *The Adventures of Barry Ween, Boy Genius* and the new writer of *Green Lantern*—blushes at such comparisons. His real goal was to touch readers with an epic and moving tale of caring, friendship, disease and death revolving around a friend millions of people shared through cable television.

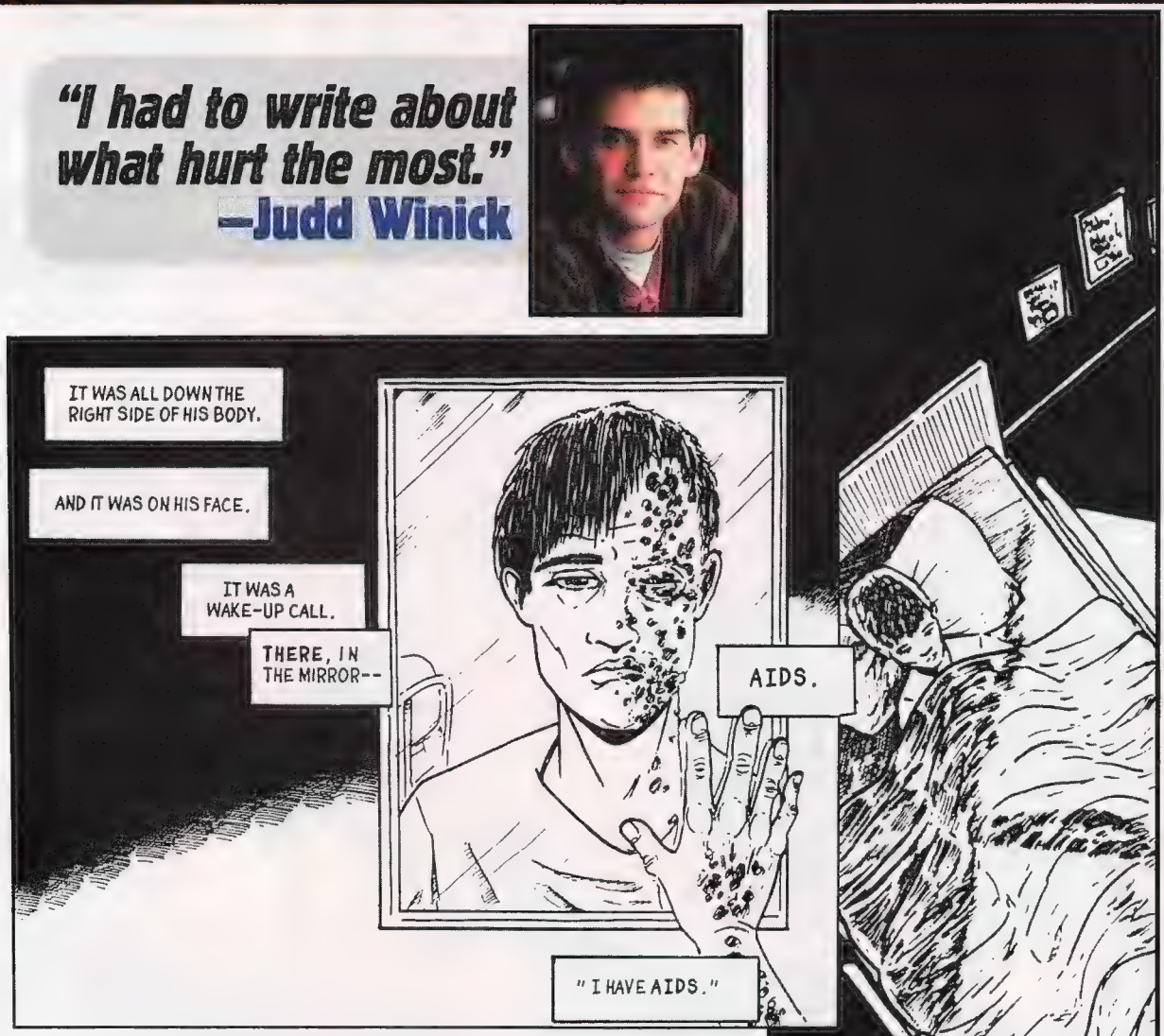
Winick, who lived with Zamora and five other strangers in San Francisco for six months as part of MTV's real life soap opera, said it took him four years to get to the point where he could write about the loss of his friend and another two years deciding how to present the story. The experience wasn't an easy one for the creator.

"It was tough to write about these personal experiences that were very painful," Winick said. "Drawing Pedro with shingles—drawing this perfectly handsome picture of him and then loading up the other side of his face with lesions and sores and scabs. I had to write about what hurt most. I had to make it more personal. I didn't want to talk about certain things but it was powerful stuff, emotional stuff. It had to go in."

Luckily, Winick didn't have to struggle alone. Another "Real World" housemate, Winick's current fiancee Pam Ling, greatly influenced the writing process.

X-FACTORS WOLVERINE ONCE DID THE NASTY WITH MYSTIQUE WHILE SHE WAS IN DISGUISE. HE CLAIMED HIS HEIGHTENED SENSES TOLD HIM IT WAS HER THE WHOLE TIME. THOUGH, STUD. (*WOLVERINE* #51)

"I had to write about what hurt the most."
—Judd Winick



"Pam's opinion was everything to me," Winick explained. "She was present for everything that was in the book. She told me when it was working and when it wasn't. She kept me honest. She told me how she remembered things and how she thought this was different and she told me when I was taking too much artistic license and when I wasn't taking enough. I'd say it all began and ended with Pam."

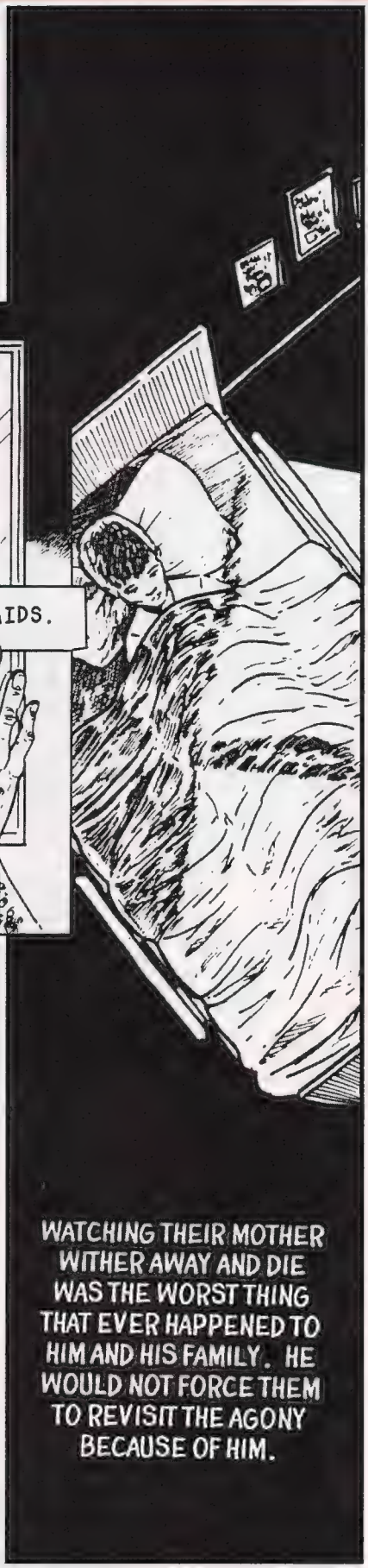
Winick held the novel back from other cast members because he didn't want their feelings to influence his work. But since the novel's completion, cast members Corey Murphy and Mohammed Bilal and the Zamora family have read the book and approved.

Dave Rainey, who fans of the show remember as the abrasive, hygiene-challenged Puck, is not a focus of the book.

"I didn't exclude him for any other reason than everything that could be discussed about Puck was discussed in the show," explained Winick. "[If he read it] he'd probably say what other Puck fans would say, 'Why isn't Puck in it more?' "

"Real World" appeal aside, *Pedro and Me* has floored the comics community. Some creators are comparing it to 1986's critically-acclaimed *Maus*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning story by Art Spiegelman about the Holocaust where cats represented the Nazis and Jews were portrayed as mice. Winick labels that comparison premature and inaccurate.

"The mainstream media will compare this to *Maus* because it's the last comic book they read," Winick chuckles. "They've never read *Stuck Rubber Baby*. *Maus* is one of our 'Citizen Kanes.' I'll just take the compliment though and blush." ■ MIKE COTTON


WATCHING THEIR MOTHER WITHER AWAY AND DIE WAS THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO HIM AND HIS FAMILY. HE WOULD NOT FORCE THEM TO REVISIT THE AGONY BECAUSE OF HIM.

LAST MAN STANDING

comic battles to the death!

WOLVERINE VS. SABRETOOTH

THE COMBATANTS

TALE OF THE TAPE

5' 3"	HEIGHT	6' 6"
195 lbs.	WEIGHT	275 lbs.
63"	REACH	78"
23,153	BACK HAIRS	23,153
Molson Canadian	BEER	Labatt's XXX

A mutant with enhanced senses and a lightning-quick healing factor, Logan participated in Canada's "Weapon X" program, which gave him an adamantium-laced skeleton. Combined with retractable claws, this killing machine now protects humanity as the X-Men's Wolverine!

A mutant with razor-claws, heightened senses and an accelerated healing factor, the so-called Victor Creed also took part in "Weapon X." Now a freelance mercenary, Creed uses his powers, instincts and uncontrollable bloodlust to tear through his victims as Sabretooth!

the battle... Honing his skills in the woods of upstate N.Y., Wolverine suddenly drops the scent of the deer he's tracking and picks up a more familiar one: Sabretooth! Muscles tensed and claws extended, Logan turns just as Sabretooth lunges at his foe. A few quick swipes, and Sabretooth draws first blood. Wolverine counters with some well-placed blows to Sabretooth's midsection, knocking the villain into a formerly solid oak tree. The 'Tooth gets up and pursues Wolverine, locking the two in a frenzied dance of blood, slashes and snarls. Getting in close, Sabretooth's bloodlust rises as he cuts open Wolvie's abdomen. Berserker rage now kicking in, Wolverine slashes out with his claws, slicing Sabretooth's right hand clean off. With the smell of blood filling his nostrils, Wolverine mercilessly hacks away at his wounded foe, pausing not even for a second as he delivers the final blow through Sabretooth's heart. Holding his guts in with one hand, Wolverine spits a goodbye on his enemy, before falling to the ground and passing out in a sea of blood as his healing factor kicks into overdrive. (W)

Agree? Disagree? Well, let us know! And while you're at it, send us your ideas for future Last Man Standing battles! Just e-mail us at: lastmanstanding@wizardworld.com. Thanks!

this month's battle drawn by JIM LEE

FIRSTLOOK

SHAZAM!

Alex Ross and Paul Dini provide a 'superhero make-a-wish' to kids with 'Shazam: Power of Hope'

Alex Ross and Paul Dini can make dreams come true—with a little help from Captain Marvel. That's just what the award-winning comic team will do this November with the oversized one-shot *Shazam: Power of Hope*, following up their popular *Superman: Peace on Earth* and *Batman: War on Crime* specials.

"It's superhero make-a-wish," says Ross, the acclaimed artist of *Marvels* and *Kingdom Come*. And he means that, as the superhero who's really a boy transformed by a magic word into the World's Mightiest Mortal goes about helping other children's wishes come true.

The story begins with young Billy Batson reading fan mail sent to his superpowered alter-ego. The letters draw Billy's attention to a children's hospital, where the juvenile patients "really, really" want Captain Marvel to show up.

"He thinks 'Can I do this? Can I use this power for something that's not an emergency?' " Ross says. "And he does exactly that."

So, with a flash of lightning and a crack of thunder, Captain Marvel soars to the hospital, where he spends some quality time with the ailing youth. In some cases, he helps them live out their wishes—whisking them off on adventures and taking them flying.

"This book is going to have more of those over-the-top images of 'colorful hero doing colorful things in sunlight, lifting buses and stopping volcanoes' and all that," Ross reveals. "This is full of phenomenal splash images of Captain Marvel doing exciting, cool stuff."

CM3 Captain Marvel stars in Ross and Dini's third tabloid-sized one-shot, after Superman and Batman.

And as he did with *Peace on Earth* and *War on Crime*, Ross will donate the proceeds from a *Power of Hope* art auction to charity—in this case, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, an organization that fulfills wishes for children who have life-threatening illnesses.

Knowledge of Make-A-Wish's efforts helped in the gestation of the book, but the creators culled inspiration from another source—"Superman" actor Christopher Reeve.

"I heard something about how when he was first playing the character of Superman, he went to children's hospitals and visited kids," the artist said. "The power of that—if you're a little kid and the guy who's playing Superman in the movies comes to see you in person…it would just be phenomenal.

"It's mindblowing." W

When Staff Writer Christopher Lawrence was very young, the actor who played Cooter from "The Dukes of Hazzard" paid him a visit. It wasn't very inspiring.

BY CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE

HOPE & GLORY

THE DILLY-O

Shazam: Power of Hope stars DC's Captain Marvel, who possesses the power of "Shazam" granting him the wisdom of Solomon, strength of Hercules, stamina of Atlas, power of Zeus, courage of Achilles and the speed of Mercury.

WHY YOU CARE

Alex Ross. Paul Dini. Together, the award-winning creators have already created the blockbuster *Superman: Peace on Earth* and *Batman: War on Crime* one-shots.

DID YOU KNOW?

Alex Ross once pitched a Captain Marvel animated series to Warner Bros. animation, which produces the acclaimed "Batman Beyond" and "The New Batman/Superman Adventures" 'toons. But they turned him down. (Oh, and to readers of our April Fool's Issue [*Wizard* #104]: this Ross/Dini book is the real deal.) ■ CL

HEAD TO HEAD What's the better book: J. Michael Straczynski's epic *Rising Stars* (cast shown on left) or Alan Moore's super-cop book *Top 10* (right)?

FIGHT 2000

'RISING STARS' AND 'TOP 10' SHINE AS THE TWO BEST BOOKS AROUND, BUT WHICH ONE COMES OUT ON TOP?

BY THE *WIZARD* STAFF

ALAN MOORE AND J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI better take cover because war is coming.

Moore's *Top 10* handcuffs the competition, dealing with a precinct of superpowered cops that patrol a city filled with supercitizens. Straczynski's conspiracy-laden *Rising Stars* burns up the charts by following 113 "Specials" born with superpowers who grow up together in a world that fears them. Together, the books stand as perfect examples of how good comics can be. But only one can be called the best.

Okay, okay...we concede the two books appear almost too different to compare. But the two share similar traits: they're the greatest reads out there, hands down. They flaunt the wares of the field's most talented writers. They both have the letter "T" in their title.

Wizard dissected every issue of each series and graded the two books on everything from art to plot to the little extras that make the books even more superb below the surface. Which book rules the racks? Read on and find out. Either way, the true winner of this conflict winds up being you.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN ZANIER

PLOT

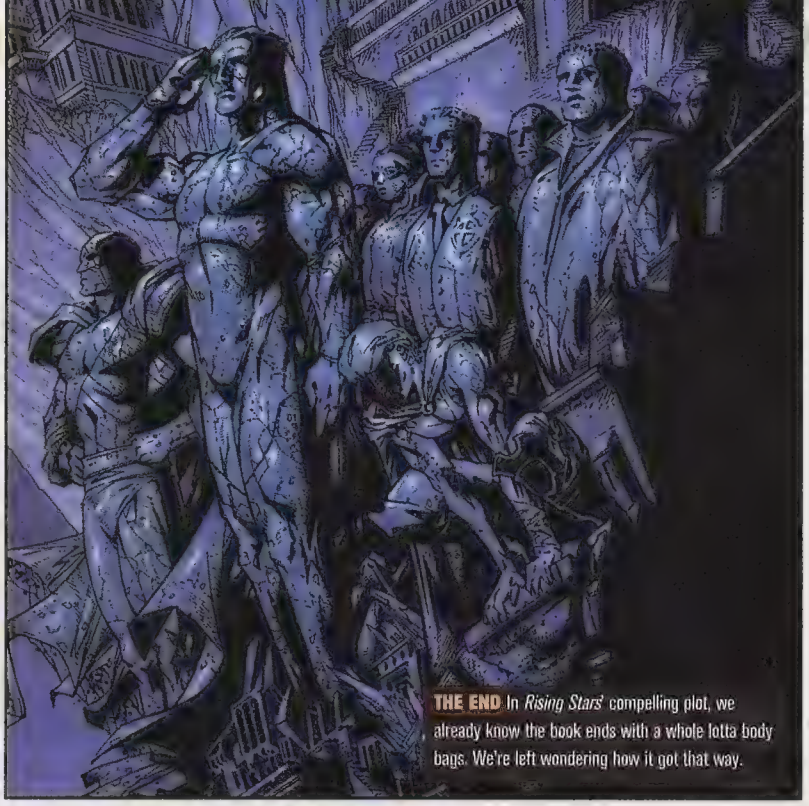
While *Top 10* reads episodic, *Rising Stars* screams epic.

Top 10 plays out like a season of "NYPD Blue" with superheroes. Every issue of the ABC book jumbles at least three plotlines, with one taking center stage like Norse Gods involved in a homicide or a head-hunting serial killer who transforms from a hideous monster into a beautiful porn star. And while every episode of *Top 10* surprises and fascinates readers, it doesn't have the sweeping scope of *Rising Stars*.

A TV feel isn't big enough for *Rising Stars*, which has a cinematic quality on par with trilogies such as "Star Wars," "The Godfather" and "Indiana Jones." This Top Cow book's conspiracy tale starts in the small town of Peterson, Ill., where Patriot, a beloved Superman-like "Special," begins killing the same friends he grew up with because their deaths give him more power. And this high-octane story rife with hatred, discrimination and murder has plenty of twists. Mindbenders like killing an invulnerable man with a simple plastic bag and duct tape. Or that the meekest of the "Specials" is actually the most powerful. Or that Patriot's violent rivalry with the fire-powered Pyre has always been a scam for Patriot's own perverse purposes.

Stars sets up a story where superpowered factions prepare to stage a war so huge the planet may not be able to contain it. As sides are drawn, readers know the story can only lead to one place…a huge battle with a huge body count.

WINNER: Rising Stars



THE END In *Rising Stars*' compelling plot, we already know the book ends with a whole lotta body bags. We're left wondering how it got that way.

ART

There are comics with great art. And then there's *Top 10*.

Outside of maybe George Pérez's pencil work on *Avengers*, no book comes close to ultra-detailed visuals of ABC's "*10* spot." Series artists Gene Ha and Zander Cannon's complex renditions ooze personality, emotion and character.

No two characters look the same. Every location has some sort of multi-layered photographic background. Everything—and we mean *everything*—looks interesting. And while the stories imbue each character with wild and outrageous powers, it's Ha and Cannon's rendering that makes it all look real—and real cool. A dog in a robotic exoskeleton, a blue-skinned behemoth and a beer-bellied Godzilla lookalike may seem ludicrous, but Ha makes it all look like it's not out of place—even when it is.

Our only gripe—and believe us, it's minor—is that *Rising Stars*' key characters Poet and Ravenshadow look too similar and can create momentary confusion. And judging from the fantastic opening art by *Stars* artist Christian Zanier, the best is yet to come. But although the solid art on *Rising Stars* tells a great story…Ha and Cannon's work catapults *Top 10* to another level.

WINNER: Top 10

CAST

Sometimes size doesn't matter.

Top 10 may offer a wildly diverse cast including a naked woman with shifting skin pygments, an intangible lesbian, a shark lawyer and a voodoo detective. But with volume comes some clutter. *Top 10*'s cast can be cumbersome as more and more characters enter the story too rapidly to digest. *Top 10*'s erratic shipping schedule also challenges readers to remember their names and faces every issue.

Rising Stars, however, focuses on a handful of players using series star Poet as the main narrator. And their motivations play a key role. Each character acts and reacts because of love, hate, greed or arrogance.

In *Top 10*, the cops' motivations take a back seat to the crime stories. However, while the cast may be a bit overwhelming at times, it's impressive that in just a few panels, the reader learns a lot about the characters. Things like the fact that canine Sgt. Caesar is a pervert and Officer Smax has a chip on his shoulder the size of Mt. Everest.

But when you get right down to it, too much ain't always a good thing.

WINNER: Rising Stars

ENVIRONMENT

It's not often an environment evolves into a character. But without the city of Neopolis, *Top 10* would be like Batman without Gotham City.

Top 10's Neopolis comes alive every issue with a big-city personality that contains the hustle-and-bustle of downtown as well as the seedy slums where few dare to venture. In essence, with its super-technology and architecture, it's the New York City of 200 years from now.

Neopolis has got it all—aliens, superhumans, super-cops, Norse gods, alcoholic monsters, reptilian street gangs and even serial killer porno stars. And every one of 'em is a product of their environment and every one of 'em must be dealt with by the intrepid Top 10 cops.

X-FACTORS GAMBIT'S GOT A SHADY PAST. HE ONCE WORKED FOR MR. SINISTER, GETTING THE MARAUDERS TOGETHER AND LEADING THEM TO THE MORLOCKS. BUT GAMBIT WISED UP AND EVEN SAVED MARROW FROM DEATH. (*UNCANNY X-MEN* #350)

In its defense, *Rising Star*'s Peterson, Ill., where all the "Specials" grew up and most still live, is purposely *not* the hot bed of activity Neopolis is. Its humble, mid-Western small-town feel gives a good backdrop for these characters of awesome power, but it doesn't instigate situations the way Neopolis does. In Neopolis, you've got Zen cab drivers driving blindly, teleporation accidents tying up the skyway and mice the size of toddlers with rocket launchers on their backs. And right in the heart of all the madness is that bastion of law and order, the *Top 10* police station.

Sure, their city's made up of concrete and steel, filled with psychos and blue-collar workers, and a place these cops live. But Neopolis is more than that—it's a familiar face.

WINNER: Top 10

DIALOGUE

If Mike Tyson clocked you, you'd remember it.

Just like the dialogue of *Rising Stars*, which smacks readers with more dramatic zingers per issue than any other comic produced. While other books save the foreboding lines for the last page, practically every other page of *Rising Stars* contains some narrative nugget that makes the reader go, "Oooooooo..."

Who could forget Poet's opening lines from the original *Rising Star* #0: "We thought we had been touched by the finger of God. We were so impressed, so overwhelmed, that we forgot to ask the question: Which finger?" Or Poet's first line from #6, where Patriot holds a press conference: "My name is John Simon. And that's the man I've traveled 600 miles to kill."

Top 10's conversational dialogue reads like a merge between a TV show and comic, allowing fans to read 50 percent more information than they need. Stylistically, Moore's succeeds in marrying the two styles perfectly, almost deceiving a reader into thinking he's actually watching the comic without commercial breaks! Successful as it is, *Top 10*'s TV approach doesn't quite get the reader hyped up like *Rising Star*'s constant barrage of dialogue A-bombs do.

WINNER: Rising Stars

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Sometime little things make all the difference.

Top 10 piles a heap of little things into a panel and then keeps on heaping. No other comic can compare with the cameos, jokes and background extras all over *Top 10*. Fans that don't read it seriously miss out on the fun visuals. Want proof? Just check out page 20 of issue #8

DETAILS, DETAILS *Top 10*'s packed with fun, cool background stuff like a Picasso-esque Fantastic Four painting (left inset) and super-mice wearing JLA/Avengers costumes (right inset). Can you pick out the familiar faces in the crowd above?

WHAT'S UP NEXT

TOP 10 Get ready for the end of *Top 10*...well, sort of.

ABC guru Alan Moore says expect some huge happenings to end 2000 in issues #9–#12 as King Peacock fights for his life in issue #9 and then #10–#12 wraps up the true identity of the Libra serial killer and sees one officer fall in the line of duty. And then the series ends.

That's right. Moore wants to relaunch *Top 10* again, modeling it after TV "seasons." So, after issue #12 expect *Top 10* "season two" to begin soon after. Also be on the look out for a Smax mini-series some time before year's end.

RISING STARS Prepare for armageddon, J. Michael Straczynski style!

Just as the "Specials" divide into two sides in *Rising Stars* #8, one fighting for survival and the other bent on conquest, all hell breaks loose. As each "Special" battles friends they've known since childhood, an unholy war is waged. When the dust settles, issue #9 jumps 10 years ahead, the world finds its greatest fears realized as the remaining "Specials" set up their own global territories to rule and take revenge on those who've done them wrong and only a few remain to try to put things right. MC

where readers see everyone from Captain Kirk and Spock to the *X-Men*'s Sabretooth and Rogue in a Neopolis teleportation terminal.

An argument could be made that this category is specific only to *Top 10*, but you know what? *Top 10* does this stuff so well, we had to point it out.

Whether it be super-mice dressed as JLA and Avengers (*Top 10* #6), Wolverine on a hair conditioner billboard (#3), Charlie Brown dressed as Dr. Doom (#6), and evil scavenger Smurfs (#7), there's always little extras in every panel of *Top 10*. Issue #8 took the cake. Sharp-eyed readers will spot a Picasso painting of the Fantastic Four on a wall, a cablecar full of elastic heroes (like Mr. Fantastic and Plastic Man to name just two) and a group of protesting handicapped heroes such as Oracle, Professor X and the Doom Patrol's Chief.

Rising Stars had a clever SFX ending to issue #5 where readers had to hold the last page up to the light to see a man being talked to by dead people, but it pales to what *Top 10* hands out month after month.

Readers will pour through *Top 10* once for the story and several times for the extras.

WINNER: Top 10

POWERS & ABILITIES

It's not what you have, it's what you do with it.

In *Rising Stars* the powers *are* the story. Straczynski takes superpowers we've all seen before and plays them in new and interesting ways.

Take invulnerability. Sure, it's cool to never feel pain but Peter Dawson discovered he couldn't feel a woman's touch or the hot summer sun. The only sensation he could feel was food digesting, so he ate and ate and ate, bloating to over 300 pounds.

How 'bout flight? Willie Smith could fly, but could never go higher than a few feet because he was scared of heights.

Top 10's characters have funky and goofy abilities used in neat ways. In fact, even kinda lame powers in *Top 10* make a difference, like the pathologist Micro-Maid who can shrink inside dead bodies to do autopsies; the officer Slinger that uses miniature toy solidiers that actually kick serious ass; and Alexei the drunken telepath whose role is to interrogates prisoners. Even silly powers get treated with a sense of humor, like a suspect who literally balloons up when he gets nervous and says if a syringe tries to take his blood, he'll pop and fly around the room!

Rising Stars may not have a lighter side because of its grim and gritty nature, but Straczynski's take on superheroes is a human one which makes his characters all the more super.

It's not that *Rising Stars*' characters have the greatest powers around, it's that their stories give the coolest take on powers around.

WINNER: Rising Stars

THE CHAMP

It was close, but *Rising Stars* soars just a little higher than *Top 10* with a final score of 4-3.

Straczynski has said he wants his 24-issue *Rising Stars* maxi-series to rise to the same upper echelons as Moore's *Watchmen*...and to date, *Rising Stars* has done a decent job.

The series has a long way to go though, with another 16 issues to publish. But JMS proves every month he's in for the long haul and his detailed characters, fast pacing and monster fights to come give us hope that *Rising Stars* will have a place in comic lore when all is said and done. In fact, don't be surprised if Straczynski's name starts being revered just like Moore's.

But don't think Moore's lost any of his game. *Top 10*'s a certified hit and shame on anyone who isn't reading it. Moore's super-cops will be around for a long time to come along with the rest of his ABC line—a line Straczynski means to challenge with his Joe's Comics line launching in August.

Hey, who knows? A year from now we might be debating which line of comics rules the racks—ABC or Joe's Comics! This battle might not be over after all...

Wanna download that awesome opening art by Rising Stars *artist Christian Zanier? Go to* **wizardworld.com** *right now! And then go read both books—they're worth it.*

POWER STRUGGLE *Rising Stars* treats tame superpowers with clever twists. Take this poor schlub who was invulnerable...he never felt the duct tape and plactic bag set to asphyxiate him until it was too late.

X-FACTORS PROFESSOR XAVIER ORIGINALLY LOST THE USE OF HIS LEGS WHILE BATTLING LUCIFER, AN AGENT OF THE QUIST RACE WHO WAS PREPARING TO INVADE THE EARTH. THE ALIEN DROPPED A MASSIVE STONE SLAB ON XAVIER. (*UNCANNY X-MEN* #20)

SHE WANTS YOU

(*Dead* or *Alive* that is.)

APHRODITE (IX)

the hottest piece of bounty hunter ever hits the planet in

AUGUST

DAVID WOHL
DAVID FINCH

www.topcow.com

APHRODITE IX is ™ & © 2000 TOP COW Productions inc.. All Rights Reserved.

TOP COW PRODUCTIONS, INC.™

MMoo

®

WIZARD EXCLUSIVE!

CBLDF ROUNDTABLE AT SEA

MAKING WA

'Wizard' sets sail with comics' biggest names from the past two decades—Frank Miller, Neil Gaiman, Kurt Busiek and Mark Waid

VES

by MIKE COTTON

Mark Waid restlessly snoozes on an uncomfortable cruise ship couch, while Kurt Busiek laboriously thumbs through a *Starman* trade paperback and Neil Gaiman quietly talks in his thick British accent to goth-girl fans searching for autographs and sketches.

They're all waiting. Waiting for the legendary Frank Miller to arrive.

Forty-five minutes and one phone call later, Miller emerges from the elevator wearing shorts and a tropical shirt. He sports sunglasses to conceal the effects of a previous night spent tipping Corona beers and swapping stories with fans. He quickly clings to Gaiman's side and the two talk quietly, away from fans and bystanders.

Waid and Busiek—two of today's biggest names in comics —patiently wait in the background like fanboys at a convention looking for autographs, awaiting the cue from Miller and Gaiman, the heavy hitters.

Miller cemented his rep with *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* which redefined comics in 1986. With its dark and gritty style, it pushed comics into the mainstream, gained publicity in *Rolling Stone*, and set the tone for not only comics at the time, but Tim Burton's 1989 "Batman" film as well. His critically-acclaimed '80s *Daredevil* runs and '90s *Sin City* tales continually proved comics weren't just for kids.

Next to Miller strolls Gaiman, whose mature fantasy series *Sandman* helped pave the way for DC Comics' Vertigo imprint. With his 75-issue series from 1989-1996, Gaiman brought comics to new literary heights, winning a World Fantasy Award for Best Short Story for *Sandman* #19. It was the first and last time a comic ever won—judges have since changed the criteria, barring comics from being nominated.

Behind those two stroll Waid and Busiek, the new wave of creators shaping today's biggest properties. Waid's 1996 *Kingdom Come*, an apocalyptic tale of a future DC Universe, has become this generation's *Dark Knight Returns*. And besides recently grabbing the reigns of DC's flagship title *JLA*, Waid spent almost a decade running life into the once-sagging *Flash*.

Then there's Busiek, who helped transform the *Avengers* into a solid Top 10 title in '97 and proved that retro stories could be just as powerful as dark futures, with his hugely successful 1993 *Marvels* mini-series.

Here they all are adrift in the Pacific Ocean, 200 miles from the nearest port, as part of the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund cruise, where fans and creators alike joined to support creative freedom in the comic field.

In the past, they've all spoken about everything from independent comics to their greatest influences, but now they're moving on to

PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHRADER

"I would like to write the Hal Jordan Green Lantern... he was a wonderful character with so much potential, but I never felt anyone followed it through."

— NEIL GAIMAN

the big stuff, wailing away at their biggest mistakes, the impact of comic book movies and their superhero wish list.

Just after ordering a precooked lunch, Waid chimes in with the first question: "Are we done now?" Not a chance, Mark. We've only just begun...

WIZARD: To start, let's think big. If you had total control of Marvel Comics, what would you do?

GAIMAN: Just let people create. I mean, the guy sitting to the right of me [Miller] took Daredevil from being one of the lowest-selling and forgotten characters into a cool, hip, must-read character. And it's not because the character is cool. It's because you've got creators who have a fondness and are willing to put the work in. I would love to do Thor. I'd do it for a couple of years and at the end, you'd have something that people didn't have before. I don't think there's a thing wrong with Marvel's characters, just their fundamental attitudes.

WAID: There's also a narrowness of vision. I was up [at Marvel] a few years ago and I asked what superpower everyone would have. One of the big-shot editors said, "Well, I'd fly but I'd only fly two inches off the ground because I'd be afraid I'd fall." That's the attitude of the guy in charge of Marvel Comics. Don't fly too high, you'll fall.

BUSIEK: I'd just institute a sensible trade paperback program. Every time I do an *Astro City* issue I know I've got another chapter in another book that'll be around as long as the audience supports it. There's one collection of the work George [Pérez] and I have done on *Avengers* [#1-#4]. It collects $9 worth of issues for $15. There's something wrong with that.

What characters—Marvel, DC or otherwise—would you four like to sink your teeth into?

MILLER: [*Flatly*] Superman. He's the first, the biggest, the best. The purest. The most f—ed up.

WAID: Superman. For pretty much the same reasons Frank said. Maybe on odd days I'd say [DC's] Captain Marvel.

GAIMAN: If I had a year, with no one breathing down my neck, no one looking over my shoulder and no one rewriting my dialogue because something just happened in someone else's comic, then I would like to write the Hal Jordan Green Lantern.

WAID: Wow, that's an interesting choice...why him?

GAIMAN: Because he was a wonderful character with so much potential, but I never felt anyone followed it through. The idea of an interstellar cop for this whole part of space, with a ring that gives him unbelievable power, driven by will power, that allows telepathy was just really cool. It was like no one ever got a handle on what made him work or why. The idea of a Green Lantern Corps was great and to throw the whole thing away...I'd just like to take it for 12 issues.

BUSIEK: Green Lantern is my favorite DC character. But I've rarely seen Hal really explored. I mean, Hal's a test pilot. He's a guy who gets into a machine that may not work and launches himself into the air, trusting himself that if something goes wrong he'll figure out a solution on the fly. That's not Batman—he always has a plan. That's not Superman—Superman is rarely in danger. Hal's the kind of guy who will jump off a cliff because he'll figure out something to do on the way down. That's a great character.

Who's the best writer in comics right now?

GAIMAN: Alan Moore. [*Pause*] Alan Moore...when he's trying.

WAID: He's on his game.

LIGHTNING LAD Neil Gaiman wants just two things: Thor and creative freedom.

X-FACTORS

X-MEN SALES WERE SO POOR AT ONE TIME THAT THE STORIES IN *UNCANNY X-MEN* #67-#93 WERE ACTUALLY REPRINTS OF EARLIER ISSUES.

Okay, so what about the best writer of all time?

ALL: Will Eisner.

GAIMAN: And let me tell you why it's Will Eisner. At 16, I stopped reading comics. I had outgrown these four color things and I was 23 before I came back. In the time in between, I read no comics, except I picked up some Kitchen Sink [Press] periodicals and they were literature. It had nothing to do with being a fan. These were beautiful stories, beautifully drawn, paced, told and crafted—you couldn't change a word from them and you wouldn't want to. You learned from them.

MILLER: I went through the same thing. Not only was he one of the few comics writers who showed a mastery of the short story, arguably the hardest kind of fiction to write. But also in those eight pages he packed more emotion and drama than most people do in a career.

WAID: I'm with them: Will.

BUSIEK: I agree with everything they said but I'll add Milton Caniff. It's a different approach with the long narrative instead of the short narrative but I think [Caniff's comic strips] "Terry and the Pirates" and "Steve Canyon" up until about '62 are some of the best comics I've ever seen anywhere.

What's your proudest moment individually in comics?

GAIMAN: Having DC stop *Sandman* when it was done. Just the fact that I got them to end the story when the story was over. In many ways that beat all the awards because they acknowledged that I told a story.

BUSIEK: *Astro City* #1/2 [for *Wizard*]. It was an idea that came across just as strongly on the page as when it started. It's the only time I've fully done it.

MILLER: Finishing *300*.

WAID: Crap! Then this has to be a creator-owned thing! You know, honestly, it's *Flash* #0. That's the most personal story I've ever told. And, to me, it's proof that as long as you keep your wits about you and don't succumb to fanboyishness, these are characters that you can tell greatly personal stories through…even if you didn't create them.

MILLER: Hey, you're not going to get beat up by the three of us for that, look at how we built our careers.

What about your worst moment?

GAIMAN: There was a time when I was leaving the San Diego Con. I was very late for my plane. When I got down to the lobby, I saw [DC Publisher] Paul Levitz talking to Jack Kirby. I'd never met Jack. I really wanted to be introduced. I wanted to tell him I wouldn't have been there if not for him. But I was running late and I went to get my plane. With poetic justice, the plane was

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

Hey, besides grabbing comics' biggest creators for a roundtable Q&A, *Wizard* took full advantage of the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund cruise. There was dancing, drinking, parasailing, gambling, you name it. Here's just a few snapshots from our scrapbook. For tons more photos, surf on over to wizardworld.com right now.

canceled and I spent two hours sitting in the airport…

WAID: Not shaking Jack's hand?

GAIMAN: Having not shaken Jack's hand. And he died a few months later.

And you never got to meet him?

GAIMAN: No, I never met him. And, well…a plane's a f---ing plane and they come and go but…I could have taken 30 seconds and said, "Hello."

You fellas were all "unknowns" at some point. What's your favorite memory of breaking into comics?

GAIMAN: The thing I remember most fondly about breaking in was how unlikely it was. [DC Editors] Dick Giordano and Karen Berger were over in England on a talent scouting trip and in the morning they met with Grant Morrison. In the afternoon they met with me and David McKean. We sat down and pitched them a bunch of stuff and we came out with a commission for *Black Orchid*.

BUSIEK: [*Puzzled at Gaiman's accent*] Blackhawk Kid?

WAID: I'd very much like to see you do Blackhawk Kid.

ALL: [*Laughter*]

But how did you know you'd made it?

BUSIEK: I turned down *NFL SuperPro*. That was the first job I ever turned down.

MILLER: When I got to write my second issue of *Daredevil*. After they let me write another issue, I knew I had something.

GAIMAN: *Sandman* #8 because I'd written a comic where nothing happens. He's miserable and he meets his sister and walks around New York a bit and cheers up a little and that's all that matters in that comic. And yet they overprinted it by 30 percent—sent out extra copies to stores trying to get them out there.

Hypothetical question. The four of you are trapped on a desert island. Who survives?

WAID, BUSIEK & GAIMAN: Frank!

WAID: I'll tell you why. Kurt and I just have too much meat on our bones. We're too edible. Frank's too stringy.

GAIMAN: And then it's just Frank and I hiding from each other for awhile. I've read Frank's comics—I'm too squeamish. At the end of the day, I'd look at Frank and I can't do it.

BUSIEK: Survival tip—drown the cigarettes and you've got a fighting chance.

MILLER: [*Flatly*] Then you wouldn't have a chance at all.

Let's talk about the "X-Men" movie. Who's gonna see it, and will it "save" comics?

WAID: I like the pedigree of the director [Bryan Singer], so I'd go see it.

GAIMAN: These things don't matter. If I do the "Death: The High Cost of Living" movie it doesn't matter to the world of comics. Comics are comics, movies are movies. The "Crumb" movie is my favorite movie about comics but I don't think it got anyone into a comic shop.

BUSIEK: If I hear good reviews about the "X-Men" movie and it sounds interesting, I'll go see it.

MILLER: Hollywood will do its best to deny there ever *was* an X-Men comic book. When people came out of the second Batman movie, kids were polled as to who they wanted to see as the villain in "Batman 3." The overwhelming result was King Tut. How does a kid like that exist? These movies have never helped us. They never will.

GAIMAN: There will be a little spike in some stores…

MILLER: Oh great, so X-Men will sell well!

Do you view each other as competition in the field?

ALL: No.

WAID: If I viewed these guys as competition I couldn't get out of bed in the morning!

MILLER: It's not a zero/sum game. We're not fighting for pieces of a pie. We're trying to make the pie bigger.

BUSIEK: We all want more good comics.

GAIMAN: It's not that somebody is coming around saying, "I have $20. Do I want a *Sandman* comic or a *Sin City* comic?" If they buy the *Sin City* collection one week, then maybe the next week they'll buy the *Sandman* collection. What we want is lots and lots and lots of really good comics.

So, how do you get more people to read comics?

BUSIEK: You make good accessible, understandable comics that people will enjoy. Put it where they shop and tell them it's there.

WAID: And make them affordable.

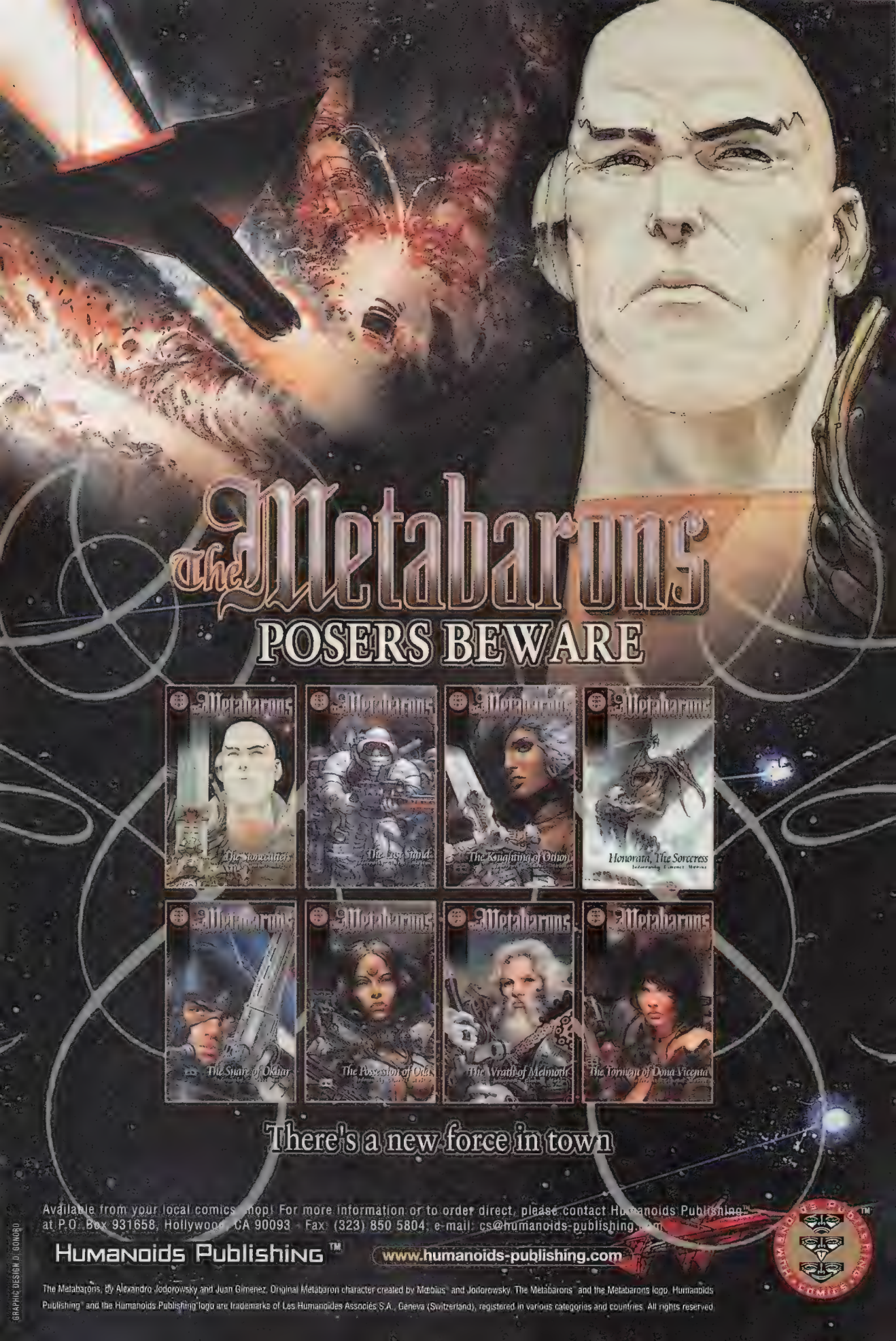
GAIMAN: From the point of a writer, since we're a bunch of writers, how do you make people want to read comics? You write good comics.

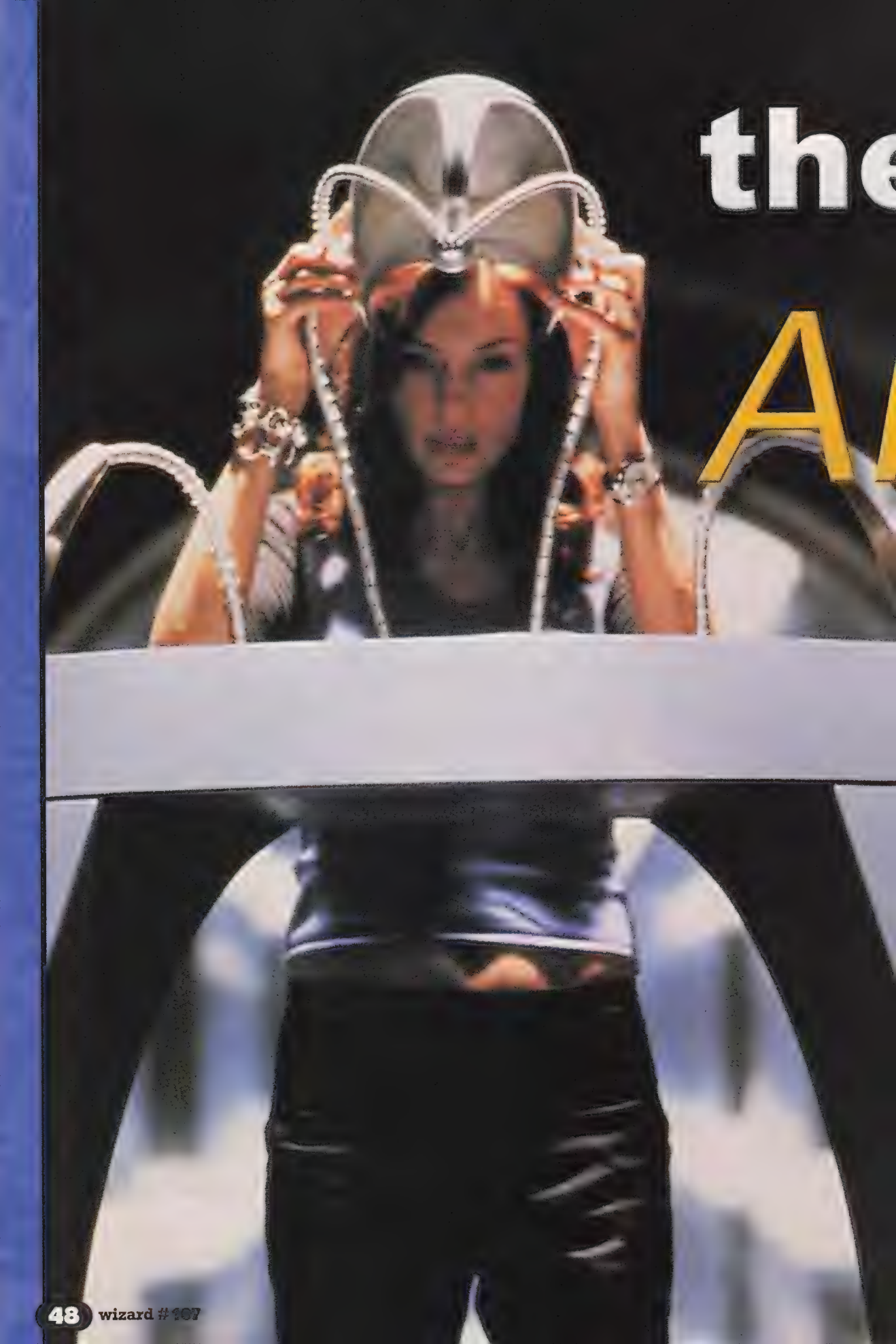
WAID: Yeah, you open up your veins instead of just hacking it out.

Wanna get in on the 2001 CBLDF Cruise? Call the Cruise Authority at (800) 707-1634 or call the CBLDF at (800) 992-2533 for details.

"[I'd like to do] Superman. He's the first, the biggest, the best. The purest. The most f---ed up." – FRANK MILLER

X-FACTORS MYSTIQUE ONCE OFFERED THE SERVICES OF HER NEW BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS AS GOVERNMENT MUTANT WATCHDOGS. THE GOVERNMENT TOOK HER UP ON HER OFFER AND RENAMED THE GROUP FREEDOM FORCE. (*UNCANNY X-MEN* #139)


The Metabarons
POSERS BEWARE
The Ironcutter
The Last Stand
The Knighting of Othon
Honorata, The Sorceress
The Swan of Oklar
The Possession of Oda
The Wrath of Melmoth
The Torment of Dona Vicenta
There's a new force in town
Available from your local comics shop! For more information or to order direct, please contact Humanoids Publishing™ at P.O. Box 931658, Hollywood, CA 90093 - Fax: (323) 850 5804, e-mail: cs@humanoids-publishing.com
Humanoids Publishing™
www.humanoids-publishing.com
The Metabarons, by Alexandro Jodorowsky and Juan Gimenez. Original Metabaron character created by Mœbius and Jodorowsky. The Metabarons and the Metabarons logo, Humanoids Publishing and the Humanoids Publishing logo are trademarks of Les Humanoides Associés S.A., Geneva (Switzerland), registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved.
GRAPHIC DESIGN BY GOMORO


the
A

final ANSWER

by Christopher Lawrence

Will Wolverine kill? Will there be a Danger Room? Who bags Jean Grey? Everything you need to know about the 'X-Men' movie starts here.

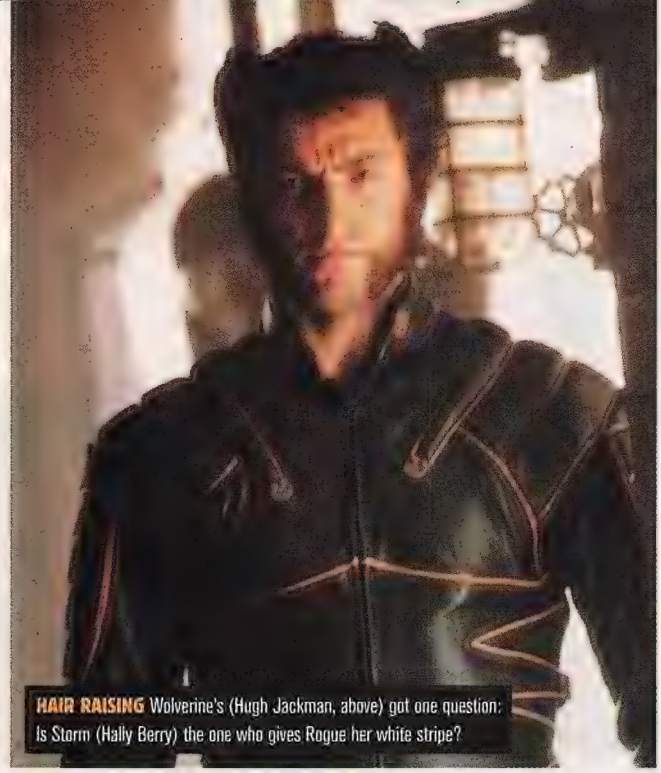
The next stage in evolution has arrived. After more than two decades of wanting, wishing and waiting, comic fans will finally get their nail-bitten hands on the holy grail of superhero movies. Now, on the eve of X-Day, *Wizard* tackles the toughest questions surrounding the hottest movie of 2000: "X-Men."

WHY SHOULD I SEE THIS FLICK?

Why *wouldn't* you? This $75 million mutant tour de force will rock the foundations of megaplexes across the nation July 14. Need some proof? Well, for starters, with no other big action films hitting this summer, look for the superpowered "X-Men" to blast past the summer's cinematic spattering of syrupy romantic comedies and depressing melodramas.

Then there's the huge star-studded cast, headlined by Patrick Stewart as the X-Men's mental-powered mentor, Professor X. Joining him on the mutated screen are Ian McKellen, Halle Berry, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos and Oscar-winner Anna Paquin to name but a few.

Toss in hot young director Bryan Singer ("The Usual Suspects") and the refined essence of 38 years of comic supremacy, and you better believe "X-Men" will be setting the bar high for summer blockbusters.



HAIR RAISING Wolverine's (Hugh Jackman, above) got one question: Is Storm (Halle Berry) the one who gives Rogue her white stripe?

HOW DO PROFESSOR X AND MAGNETO BUILD THEIR ARMIES?

Professor Xavier uses his mutant-seeking computer Cerebro to round up a group of genetically unique individuals, mutants he'll train to defend the world against superpowered threats.

"They [the X-Men] are preparing for the potential for conflict and to prevent that conflict, so that one race of mankind doesn't wipe out the other," director Bryan Singer says. "Which is quite possible with mutants of such power."

"X-Men" actually follows the early days of the team, before they've appeared in public. Some members, like Cyclops, are familiar with Xavier's methods, while others, like Wolverine and Rogue, are newcomers to the halls of Xavier's Institute for Gifted Youngsters—and to the Professor's message of peace.

That message stands in stark contrast to Magneto's belief that war is coming—a winner-take-all battle between humanity and mutantkind. To help ensure his victory, Magneto enlists the aid of Toad, Sabretooth and Mystique, a.k.a. the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. It's that philosophical battle between Xavier and Magneto, the mantra of "There cannot be conflict" versus the idea of victory "By any means necessary" that drives the film, pitting the mutant armies against one another.

DOES THE MOVIE FINALLY REVEAL WOLVERINE'S ORIGIN?

Yes...and no.

The Weapon X project reportedly appears in a flashback sequence, during which fans'll see scientists experiment on Wolverine and, ultimately, give him his adamantium skeleton and claws.

And while the onscreen Wolverine will have difficulty remembering his past, there will be some significant hints about Logan's mysterious history—the film touches upon both his ties to Canada and his shared past with Sabretooth.

DOES WOLVERINE KILL?

No doubt about it.

Aussie actor Hugh Jackman confirmed his claw-carrying Canadian character will claim a life.

"But not in the way you think," Jackman said in a recent online chat.

Though Jackman's valiantly striving to maintain a sense of mystery, X-watchers merely have to look at the trailers and movie stills to figure out Logan'll sink his claws into at least two characters in the flick.

One is his arch-enemy, Sabretooth, whom Wolvie battles on several occasions. Whether the climactic fight on the top of the Statue of Liberty ends with Logan driving his adamantium claws into the villainous Victor Creed's eye sockets remains to be seen, but it's a surefire bet Sabretooth's gonna get the point—literally—before the flick's end.

The second stabbing victim is, believe it or not, fellow X-Man Rogue. In a scene that'd seem surreal to comic fans, Wolverine actually rams his claws through Rogue's chest. To Logan's credit, he does look kinda surprised he did it, but the fact remains the youngest of the X-Men will taste cold, hard steel. Or in this case, adamantium.

WHO BAGS JEAN GREY—WOLVERINE OR CYCLOPS?

The eyes have it. In this case, the glowing red eyes.

That doesn't mean there won't be a little three-way love action in the movie, though. (Well, a love triangle at least...) Wolverine will most definitely have the hots for the X-Men's resident redheaded babe (who also happens to be a doctor in the movie), a fact that'll create a bit of conflict between the film's heroes.

"Yeah, there's tension," Jackman says. "Wolverine likes the ladies. And in the film, he has a certain simmering attraction to Dr. Jean Grey."

In fact, the Jean-Cyclops-Wolverine relationship was a focal point for director Singer, who admits the triangle played a factor in his decision to cast Famke Janssen as Jean.

"I wanted to go with a mature Jean Grey," he says. "I needed someone who was more of a woman, so that in casting a younger Cyclops and an older Wolverine, there's a kind of imbalance."

X-FACTORS SHOWLINE HARBOURSIDE STUDIOS THE PRODUCTION FACILITY THAT HOUSED THE "X-MEN" FILM, ALSO PLAYED HOME TO SUCH FILMS AS "PUSHING TIN," "FLY AWAY HOME" AND "THE STUPIDS."

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...

"Some of the best-looking special effects ever seen on your little grey box." (PlayStation) — Official PlayStation Magazine February

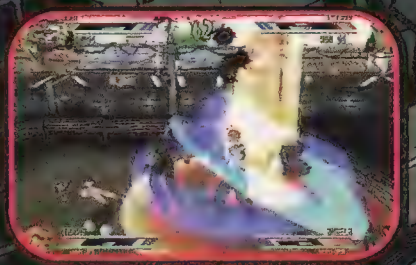
Anything is a weapon, and with the interactive environments loaded down with items like metal pipes, flamethrowers, soda machines and more, you'll never run out of "toys"

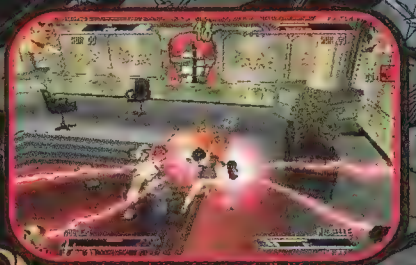
"Make your PlayStation shine." — Daily Radar, October 16, 1999

URBAN FIGHTERS

GEKIDO

FURIOUS FOUR PLAYER FIGHTING





4-Player Arena Mode lets you and 3 of your closest friends beat the snot out of each other

Take on the Single-Player Urban Fighter Mode and battle your way through 15 stunning 3D environments to unlock new routes, new combos and secret characters

Featuring the Music of Fatboy Slim and Apartment 26

YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU HAVE ENEMIES

GEKIDO©2000 N.A.P.S. TEAM SRL. All Rights Reserved. Gekido, Interplay the Interplay logo and "By Gamers For Gamers." are trademarks of Interplay Entertainment Corp. All Rights Reserved. All other trademarks and copyrights are the property of their respective owners. Distributed under license from Ubi Soft Interactive Limited. Developed by N.A.P.S. TEAM SRL. © INFOGRAMES. All Rights Reserved. Infogrames and the Infogrames logo are trademarks of Infogrames Entertainment SA. All Right Reserved. PlayStation and the PlayStation logos are registered trademarks of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.

TEEN T CONTENT RATED BY ESRB

Animated Blood
Animated Violence

INFOGRAMES

PlayStation

N.A.P.S. TEAM

Interplay BY GAMERS FOR GAMERS

WHAT'S WITH THE STRIPE IN ROGUE'S HAIR?

Ironically, Rogue's silver streak doesn't show up on the silver screen...at least, not at first. Though it's been a trademark of the comic version of the power-sucking mutant since day one (or since her first appearance in *Avengers Annual* #10), the big-screen Rogue doesn't sport any white hair early on. But she does have it by film's end. How's she get it? Maybe it pops up when her mutant powers manifest, or after she touches another white-haired mutant...

WILL WE SEE ICEMAN OR ANY OTHER COMIC X-MEN?

Not exactly, but there'll be plenty of eye candy in the flick.

"There's lots of things in there," Executive Producer Tom DeSanto offers. "That was one of the great things about being so involved in the process: casting of extras who look like certain characters, slipping in characters here and there. I think fans will see characters in the background and go, 'I know who that is.' "

For those of you who want a checklist, besides Iceman, try to spot cameos by Thunderbird, Shadowcat, Jubilee, Cannonball, Colossus and maybe even Marvel founder Stan Lee in the movie.

WILL THERE BE A DANGER ROOM?

Nope. But there almost was. Filmmakers toyed around with the idea of incorporating the Danger Room—the X-Men's mechanized holographic training room—into the movie, but for budgetary reasons decided to wait until the sequel.

"It would have been nice to have a Danger Room," Singer says. "I could have had a Danger Room, and then I would have had that sequence take a certain amount of time—as well as money—from other sequences which now I like better.

"Now I don't feel I need that Danger Room as a training ground."

WHY DOESN'T PROFESSOR X HAVE HIS HOVERCHAIR?

Aside from the fact he did plenty of flying around during his days on the U.S.S. Enterprise, Stewart—as Prof. X—gets confined to terra firma by the filmmakers thanks to budgetary constraints. Then again, maybe they were just afraid fanboys would be up in arms if Xavier had his flying chair *before* encountering the Shi'ar (the alien race that gave the Professor his hovercraft in the comic).

The fact remains Xavier rides around on a custom-built motorized wheelchair—a craft that, apparently, everyone wanted to put together.

"I wanted to build his chair, but didn't get the chance," effects guru Gord Smith says. "Bummer. The special effects team—the technical special effects guys—built that."

IS REBECCA ROMIJN-STAMOS REALLY NAKED?

Depends on your definition of naked. If you come from the school where naked means "not wearing clothes," then the answer's "yes." If you're of the school were naked means "totally nude"...well, sorry guys. (The film *is* rated PG-13, after all.)

The supermodel and "MTV's House of Style" host doesn't wear clothing in the movie—underwear would kinda restrict a mutant's shapeshifting abilities—but she is covered by about 100 blue prosthetic pieces of various shapes and sizes. In other words, she's got enough on to avoid an NC-17 rating and little enough to drive teenage fanboys mad with...well, you know.

IS TYLER MANE REALLY NAKED?

Uh...no, but he is wearing high heels—sort of. In addition to his wig, fangs and prosthetic claws, the ex-pro wrestler formerly known as Big Sky wore four-inch lifts during filming, boosting him to the towering height of 7' 2".

DOES MAGNETO DIE?

Probably not. Everybody's comparing "X-Men" to 1989's big screen blockbuster "Batman," in which the main villain—the Joker—takes the long dirt nap. But whereas Batman's a guy who dresses up in a black suit to avenge his parents' murders, the X-Men are defined by the tenuous relationship between Xavier and Magneto, the oft-referenced Martin Luther King/Malcolm X conflict.

In other words, the Master of Magnetism's simply a far too important component of the X-mythos to be ushered out of film continuity after appearing in just one movie.

Plus, Ian McKellen looks too darn imposing in that helmet to write him out of at least one of the sequels...

WILL SINGER DIRECT THE SEQUEL?

Not yet, apparently. While the principal actors have reportedly signed on for encore performances, Singer's future with the X-canon isn't as certain.

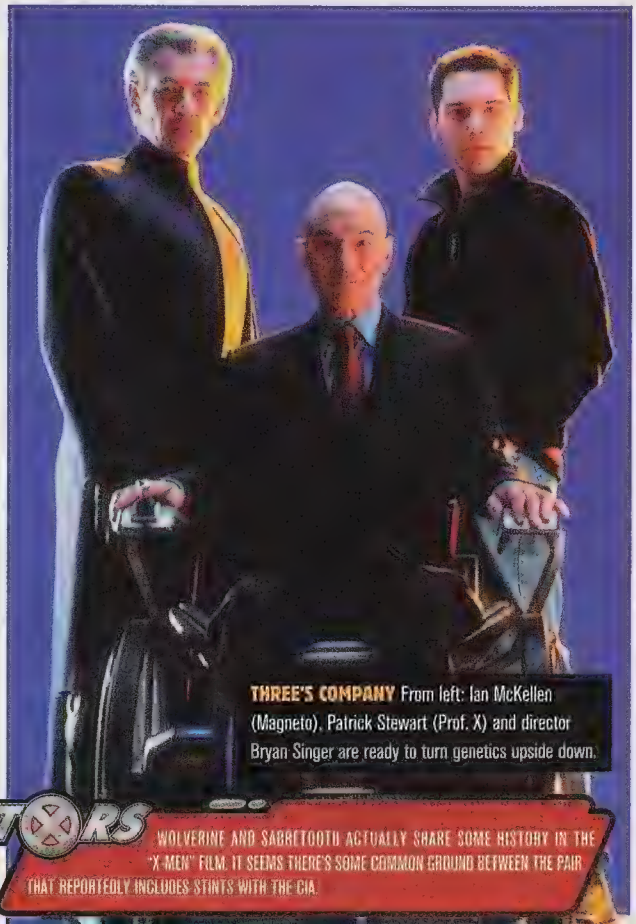
"I think it depends upon the story," DeSanto says. "And whether the fans demand he come back."

Things look kinda positive, though, as Singer's gone on the record talking about heroes (Beast), villains (the Sentinels, Proteus) and features (the Danger Room) he'd like to see in the next X-movie.

WILL PROFESSOR X DEFEAT THE BORG?

No, stupid—wrong movie.

After researching this feature, Wizard *Staff Writer Christopher Lawrence just can't keep images of a naked Sabretooth in high heels from creeping into his mind. Poor guy.*



THREE'S COMPANY From left: Ian McKellen (Magneto), Patrick Stewart (Prof. X) and director Bryan Singer are ready to turn genetics upside down.

X-FACTORS WOLVERINE AND SABRETOOTH ACTUALLY SHARE SOME HISTORY IN THE "X-MEN" FILM. IT SEEMS THERE'S SOME COMMON GROUND BETWEEN THE PAIR THAT REPORTEDLY INCLUDES STINTS WITH THE CIA.

GIBSON GUITAR INTRODUCES THE...

WOLVERINE Les Paul

LIMITED EDITION GUITAR

In an unprecedented arrangement, Gibson's Custom, Art & Historic Division provided one unfinished instrument to renowned X-Men artist, Bill Sienkiewicz to commemorate the highly anticipated release of the X-Men movie. The result is a stirring snapshot of the central figure of the X-Men comic series, Wolverine, complete with his angst and snarl.

Artist's rendering. Final specifications are subject to change.

Based on that one-of-a-kind "art guitar," Gibson is producing this limited edition run of instruments.

The Wolverine Les Paul Model is the second in a series of Gibson guitars designed through a collaboration of Gibson's luthiers and the creative forces of Marvel Comics. Only 50 of these guitars will be created, making them instant collectables.

Like all Gibson Custom Division instruments, this guitar is a fully-playable, premium musical instrument. Based on the classic Les Paul profile, the Wolverine Limited Edition Guitar features a solid mahogany back and neck, a maple top, an inlaid ebony fingerboard and two humbucking pickups. Each guitar also comes certified as one of only 50 available worldwide, a deluxe hard shell case and a lifetime warranty.

for more information, visit

www.gibsoncustom.com

Gibson Since 1894

The World's Finest Guitars

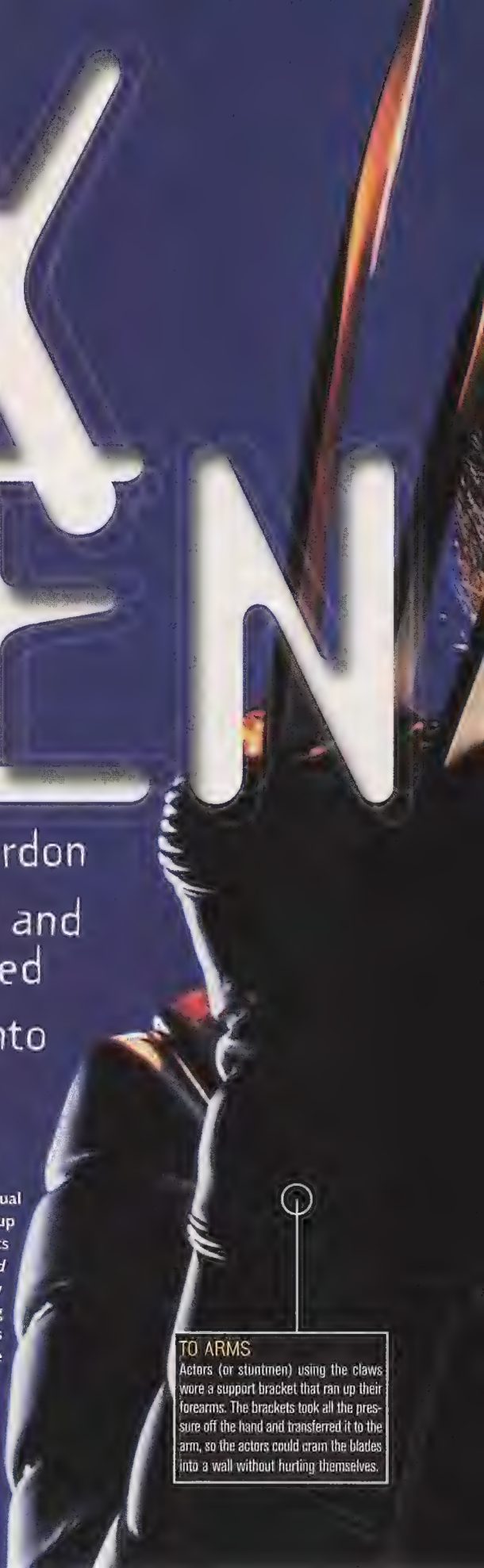
© 2000 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.
© 2000 Gibson Musical Instruments

FX MEN

Special-effects guru Gordon Smith dissects how he and his 'X-Men' team mutated 10 very human stars into full-fledged mutants

by Christopher Lawrence

Gordon Smith knows the importance of a first impression. ✳ "Visual appeal is by far the first priority," says Smith, the special makeup expert responsible for bringing the world's most popular mutants to life. "Functionality is how you keep your job." ✳ *Wizard* recently sat down with the effects guru to find out exactly how he helped comics' most uncanny characters go Hollywood—grilling him for details on the functionality of Wolverine's claws, Toad's 12-foot tongue and Rogue's streak of white hair. His favorite effect? That's easy: Mystique. ✳ "It was Rebecca Romijn-Stamos to begin with, so you're dealing with probably one of the better bodies in the world," he says. "We're just enhancing it. When it was done, it was just a spectacular image. I think people will remember that character on film. For sure." ✳ He'll get no argument here.



TO ARMS
Actors (or stuntmen) using the claws wore a support bracket that ran up their forearms. The brackets took all the pressure off the hand and transferred it to the arm, so the actors could cram the blades into a wall without hurting themselves.

DO THE DO

Like Logan's 'do? Then give props to Producer Lauren Shuler Donner. "We couldn't get Wolverine's hair right," DeSanto says. "Lauren went in and sat with the hair people for probably about three hours and got it to the point where it worked."

700 CLUB

More than 700 individual claw blades were made for the film.

THE FINGER

Five people (Hugh Jackman and four stuntmen) each had two or three sets of Logan's claws. A "set" consists of a hand-held bracket, to which custom-fit pieces of steel are attached. That steel, which bends up between the actor's fingers, locks the claw blades into place. Each piece had to be custom bent and twisted to fit the different hands.

CLOSE SHAVE

Logan's hair got shorter and shorter as filming progressed. Well, his fake hair, at least. Jackman–who was a latecomer to the cast–used fake sideburns early on in shooting. By the end of the movie, he had grown his own sideburns and only wore small extensions.

HE SLICES, HE DICES

Originally, the filmmakers wanted Jackman to have prosthetic hands that would allow him to wear Wolverine's claws continuously. "They wanted *real* blades on him. I simply refused," Smith says. "Walking around with a set of six ginsu kitchen knives is a rather dangerous thing to do...especially on a movie set."

IRON MAN

The production company wanted Gordon Smith to use real steel in Wolverine's claws and he refused, resulting in a friendly bet with the director of photography.

"He told me he could tell at 20 feet the difference between real and not real," Smith recounts. "I said, 'All right, 20 bucks.'"

Smith won after the director of photography reportedly said the plastic blades were real "for sure."

GET THE POINT?

Wolverine's claws certainly left their mark. Hugh Jackman has scars on his forehead and knee, and the Mystique body double sports a little remembrance of her encounter with the X-Canuck on her arm.

BLADE RUNNER

Several different types of claws are used throughout the movie. The basic claws are constructed of a hard PVC plastic, and–in some cases–were very sharp. Smith and Co. produced additional specialized blades for stunt sequences (with rounded tips) and impact shots (made of a softer plastic that could handle collision). There were also "real" working blades for cutting wires and slamming through walls.

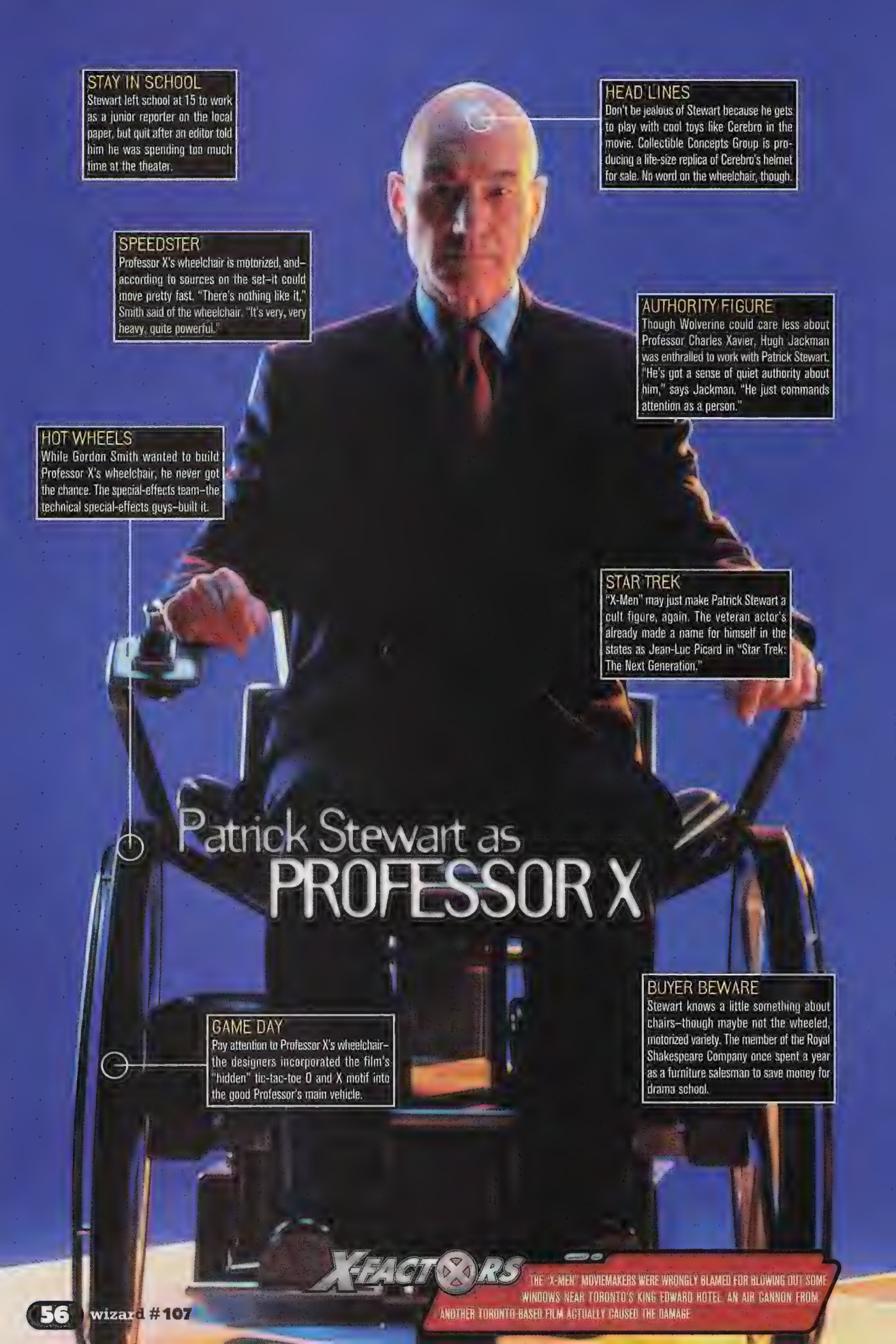
Hugh Jackman as WOLVERINE

SNIKT!

Smith developed a prosthetic arm that contained Wolverine's blades, a mechanism that brought one of Executive Producer Tom DeSanto's fanboy dreams to life.

"It was amazing," he says. "There was a hydraulic mechanism built into the forearm...everyone had to stand clear. You heard this rush of gas and air, and the claws just shot out of the hand like a bullet."

ALL PHOTOS BY KELS ISRAELSON © 2000 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



STAY IN SCHOOL
Stewart left school at 15 to work as a junior reporter on the local paper, but quit after an editor told him he was spending too much time at the theater.

HEAD LINES
Don't be jealous of Stewart because he gets to play with cool toys like Cerebro in the movie. Collectible Concepts Group is producing a life-size replica of Cerebro's helmet for sale. No word on the wheelchair, though.

SPEEDSTER
Professor X's wheelchair is motorized, and–according to sources on the set–it could move pretty fast. "There's nothing like it," Smith said of the wheelchair. "It's very, very heavy, quite powerful."

AUTHORITY FIGURE
Though Wolverine could care less about Professor Charles Xavier, Hugh Jackman was enthralled to work with Patrick Stewart. "He's got a sense of quiet authority about him," says Jackman. "He just commands attention as a person."

HOT WHEELS
While Gordon Smith wanted to build Professor X's wheelchair, he never got the chance. The special-effects team–the technical special-effects guys–built it.

STAR TREK
"X-Men" may just make Patrick Stewart a cult figure, again. The veteran actor's already made a name for himself in the states as Jean-Luc Picard in "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Patrick Stewart as PROFESSOR X

BUYER BEWARE
Stewart knows a little something about chairs–though maybe not the wheeled, motorized variety. The member of the Royal Shakespeare Company once spent a year as a furniture salesman to save money for drama school.

GAME DAY
Pay attention to Professor X's wheelchair–the designers incorporated the film's "hidden" tic-tac-toe O and X motif into the good Professor's main vehicle.

X-FACTORS
THE "X-MEN" MOVIEMAKERS WERE WRONGLY BLAMED FOR BLOWING OUT SOME WINDOWS NEAR TORONTO'S KING EDWARD HOTEL. AN AIR CANNON FROM ANOTHER TORONTO-BASED FILM ACTUALLY CAUSED THE DAMAGE

YES, SIR!

The X-Men's most menacing villain just happens to be one of Britain's favorite sons. McKellen was knighted in 1989.

METAL HEAD

Magneto's helmet was made in England as Ian McKellen was cast. The filmmakers reportedly wanted to see what the helmet looked like on the award-winning actor before he took the role.

TEACHER'S PET

"X-Men" marks the second collaboration between McKellen and director Bryan Singer–the two previously teamed up on 1998's "Apt Pupil."

STEPPING INTO THE RING

McKellen left the Toronto set of "X-Men" and headed straight to New Zealand, where he's casting spells and helping Hobbits as Gandalf in the long-awaited big-screen version of J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings.

DESK TOP

Not only can you buy a life-size reproduction of Magneto's helmet, you can also buy a smaller, magnetic version designed as a paper-clip holder.

BAT BOY

McKellen played the vampire in the video for "Heart" by the Pet Shop Boys.

WATER WORLD

"X-Men" moviemakers went all out creating Magneto's lair, and actually flooded the parking lot of a Canadian conservation area for exterior sequences.

PUMPING IRON

Magneto's entire body is a product of the prosthetic department–Ian McKellen wore a body suit incorporating sculpted muscle forms to enhance his chest, shoulders and arms.

"It's not that Ian isn't in very good shape," Smith says. "But he doesn't pump iron like Magneto probably does."

HEAVY METAL

Magneto's mutant powers play prominently in "X-Men." He yanks rifles from the hands of law enforcement officials, tosses around cop cars like paper, and freezes a certain claw-bearing, metal-enhanced mutant in his tracks.

Ian McKellen as MAGNETO

BROW BEATEN

Despite his already long mane, Mane sported a full wig and sideburns. As for his eyebrows, they were permanently attached to the prosthetic forehead. "It took four to four and a half hours to make me look just a little bit uglier than I already am," says Mane.

WET BEHIND THE EARS

Tyler Mane's sweat necessitated a bit of extra work for the effects crew. "Because the prosthetics are not glued down, except on the edges, once he started sweating, they wouldn't be stuck on anymore," Smith says. "It'd be floating on there like a fish."

HEAD CASE

The effects team changed the entire shape of Tyler Mane's head for his role as Sabretooth. "He has a prosthetic forehead," Smith says. "Right from the top of his eyes up is all artificial."

BLACK EYE

Mane wears big, oversized, solid black contact lenses. His lenses were actually prescription–the one-time wrestler's eyesight reportedly isn't all that good.

FANG FACE

Sabretooth actually has two different versions of fangs, but both are made of dental acrylic–and both sets were sharp.

LIKE A SURGEON

Sabretooth'll use his prosthetic claws (and his 7' 2" frame) to open a can of whupass on the X-Men, particularly Wolverine. In fact, Hugh Jackman said Logan's healing factor comes into play–"heavily"–during their major fight.

HANDS DOWN

Sabretooth's claws came in three pieces–one covers the pinky and ring finger, a second fits over the middle and pointer finger, and a third covers the thumb. The whole claw apparatus, which included both the nails and prosthetic fingers, simply slid over Mane's real hand, locked in place by the gloves.

PARTY ON!

Mane played Mr. Mayhem in an episode of the Fox TV drama "Party of Five" in 1994.

GOD OF THUNDER?

Sabretooth isn't the first comic character Mane's portrayed. He once played Thor...well, sort of. He played a character named Jake Olson in the 1994 TV movie "Bandit: Bandit Goes Country."

Tyler Mane as SABRETOOTH

AIR BORN

Tyler Mane's a man of many names. Born as Daryl Karolat, he's most often recognized as Big Sky (his wrestling pseudonym).

X-FACTORS

THE MUTANT WATCH IS ON! KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED DURING THE X-MEN MOVIE 'CAUSE YOU CAN EXPECT PLENTY OF MUTANT EXTRAS LIKE KIDS WITH BLUE HAIR, YELLOW SKIN AND FACE-ENVELOPING FRIZZY, KINKY BLONDE LOCKS.

WIG OUT
No, filmmakers didn't toy with Romijn-Stamos' trademark blonde tresses. Mystique's red hair is, in fact, a wig.

EYE SORE
Thanks to special lenses, Mystique's eyes are yellow with clusters of brown spots. Romijn-Stamos' eyes are reportedly very dry–so dry, in fact, that she had to wear "bandage lenses" to protect her irises and pupils from the lenses that fit over the top.

COLD SHOWER
While it took roughly 8 1/2 hours for Romijn-Stamos to get in costume, getting Mystique "off" only took about 1 1/2 hours. That includes removing Rebecca's wig and giving her time to shower.

STICK UP
Mystique's "costume" actually uses a newly devised technology that involves reusable, permanently colored prosthetics that self stick. "We just laid them on," Smith says. "They self-stuck, they stayed where you put 'em. Then we just went around and glued the edges, just to anchor them."

SPONGE BATH
Since she's covered in waterproof body paint (which is...mmm...airbrushed on), Romijn-Stamos had to use a special wash containing alcohol to clean the makeup off.

TO DYE FOR
Originally, filmmakers were going to use food coloring to create Mystique's skin tone, but couldn't get the intense blue director Bryan Singer wanted for the character. If things had worked out the way the effects folks planned, Romijn-Stamos might've been covered in food coloring for an entire week.

"We were just going to dye her skin blue and shoot her out in a week," Smith says. "She could shower, go to the sauna...the most we would have had to do was replace bedsheets."

COLD FEET
The special effects team made self-sticking slippers for Romijn-Stamos, who couldn't wear shoes because of prosthetics extending over her toenails. When shooting began, she had to peel off the slippers and go to work barefoot in the frigid Toronto, Canada climate!

IN BED
Romijn-Stamos laid on a hydraulic bed for the majority of the application of her Mystique costume. "We'd just lay her down, flip her over, do the other side, stand her up, then finish her off," Smith says.

ONLY 17
While Romijn-Stamos wears between 75 and 120 blue-colored prosthetics, the bulk of Mystique's costume consists of 17 major pieces. The largest piece began at her knee, ran up her thigh and wrapped around onto her butt. Her whole back was a piece, then her arms...and in between were a bunch of little prosthetics.

MOTHER'S DAY
Storm's role in the mythic structure of the X-Men made her an integral addition to the film's cast, says Executive Producer Tom DeSanto. "Storm is the mother of the group," he says. "She's the soul of the X-Men."

WHITE OUT
Berry's wig was the only one Smith's company didn't build. Her Storm hairpiece was made by a stylist in California.

EYES WHITE SHUT
Even though white contact lenses were built for Storm, they wound up being handled digitally. "If we did do the solid white ones live, she would have been totally and utterly blind," Smith says. "We would have had to lead her around."

'TOON IN
Storm's not the first cartoon character Halle Berry's brought to the silver screen. She played Sharon Stone in the film "The Flintstones."

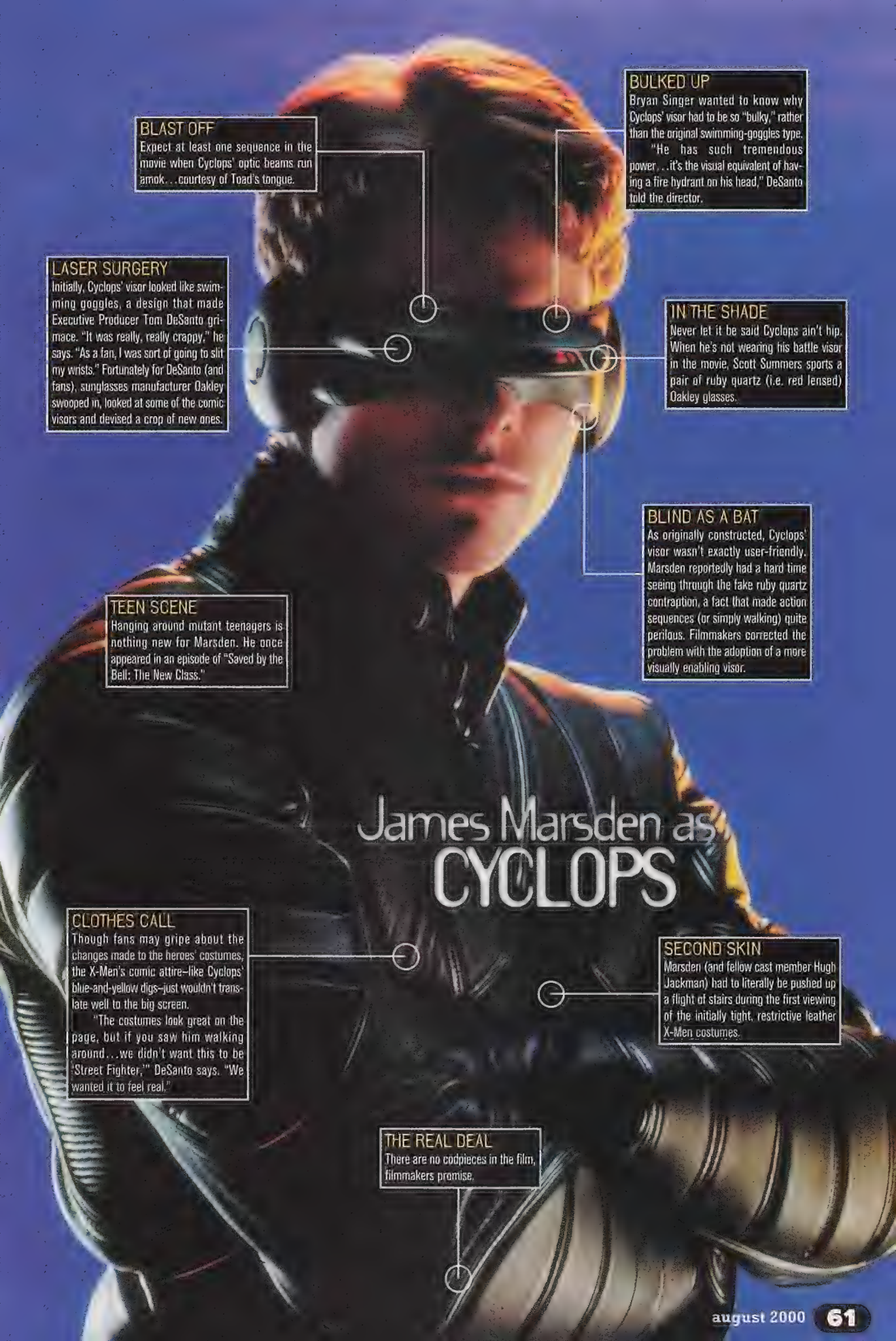
WEATHER WITCH
Though Storm won't fly like (or as often as) she does in the comics, Ororo's big-screen counterpart definitely sports the rest of her weather-based powers. She calls down lightning to zap Sabretooth and reportedly kicks up a snowstorm during a major battle scene.

GLOBE TROTTING
While filming "X-Men," Halle Berry won a Golden Globe for her performance in "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge."

COSTUME PARTY
In devising the costumes, director Bryan Singer wanted something that merged the original comic designs with sexier, yet practical applications. No one evidences that merger better than Storm, whose costume combines the filmmaker's leather-based attire with the flowing cape of the comic character.

THE FROG PRINCESS
Though the trailers show her throwing down with Sabretooth, Storm's big confrontation in the movie reportedly involves Toad.

X-FACTORS
SAFETY FIRST! WHILE THE FILMMAKERS TOYED AROUND WITH THE IDEA OF INCLUDING THE DANGER ROOM IN THE "X-MEN" MOVIE, THE MUTANT TRAINING GROUNDS DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE FILM.



James Marsden as CYCLOPS

BULKED UP

Bryan Singer wanted to know why Cyclops' visor had to be so "bulky," rather than the original swimming-goggles type.

"He has such tremendous power...it's the visual equivalent of having a fire hydrant on his head," DeSanto told the director.

BLAST OFF

Expect at least one sequence in the movie when Cyclops' optic beams run amok...courtesy of Toad's tongue.

LASER SURGERY

Initially, Cyclops' visor looked like swimming goggles, a design that made Executive Producer Tom DeSanto grimace. "It was really, really crappy," he says. "As a fan, I was sort of going to slit my wrists." Fortunately for DeSanto (and fans), sunglasses manufacturer Oakley swooped in, looked at some of the comic visors and devised a crop of new ones.

IN THE SHADE

Never let it be said Cyclops ain't hip. When he's not wearing his battle visor in the movie, Scott Summers sports a pair of ruby quartz (i.e. red lensed) Oakley glasses.

BLIND AS A BAT

As originally constructed, Cyclops' visor wasn't exactly user-friendly. Marsden reportedly had a hard time seeing through the fake ruby quartz contraption, a fact that made action sequences (or simply walking) quite perilous. Filmmakers corrected the problem with the adoption of a more visually enabling visor.

TEEN SCENE

Hanging around mutant teenagers is nothing new for Marsden. He once appeared in an episode of "Saved by the Bell: The New Class."

CLOTHES CALL

Though fans may gripe about the changes made to the heroes' costumes, the X-Men's comic attire–like Cyclops' blue-and-yellow digs–just wouldn't translate well to the big screen.

"The costumes look great on the page, but if you saw him walking around...we didn't want this to be 'Street Fighter,'" DeSanto says. "We wanted it to feel real."

SECOND SKIN

Marsden (and fellow cast member Hugh Jackman) had to literally be pushed up a flight of stairs during the first viewing of the initially tight, restrictive leather X-Men costumes.

THE REAL DEAL

There are no codpieces in the film, filmmakers promise.

X-WOMAN

Famke Janssen swings both ways…at least when it comes to the heroes and villains thing. Though she fills Jean's heroic boots in "X-Men," Janssen played the villainous Xenia Onatopp in the James Bond flick "GoldenEye."

BIG RED

No wig necessary. That's Janssen's real hair Jean Grey's sporting. Filmmakers simply added an auburn tint to the actress' tresses.

MENTAL CASE

Sure, Jean's a powerful telepath, but even she needs help at times. Like her mentor, Professor X, she'll strap on the Cerebro helmet to augment her mutant abilities.

CLOSE CALL

Though Janssen doesn't sport any prosthetics in the flick, she does sport a "slime mask" after her character gets hit with a gob of Toad goo. The filmmakers had to take care in creating the mask, as Famke is reportedly extremely claustrophobic.

NAME IT

Her comic counterpart's been called Marvel Girl, Phoenix and Dark Phoenix, but Jean Grey is the only member of the movie X-Men who doesn't sport a codename. Actually, there's a scene in the movie that addresses that very fact.

SAY, "AHHHH!"

Unlike in the comics, the movie Jean Grey is actually Dr. Jean Grey, the team's resident scientist (filling a role left vacant in the absence of the X-Men's blue-furred Beast).

SPEAK THE WORD

Jean plays a highly visible proponent of mutantkind in the movie, and actually addresses a conference of world leaders on the topic of human-mutant relations.

LOVERS SPAT

Talk about infighting–Cyclops reportedly zaps Jean in the head with his optic blasts at one point in the movie.

FRIGHT NIGHT

This Holland-born actress has plenty of experience with special effects, having starred in both Clive Barker's "Lord of Illusions" and "House on Haunted Hill."

Famke Janssen as Jean Grey

X-FACTORS

DON'T EXPECT TO SEE ROGUE FLY ON SCREEN THIS SUMMER. HER FILM PERSONA HASN'T SUCKED MS. MARVEL'S POWERS YET, SO GOING AIRBORNE'S A NO-GO.

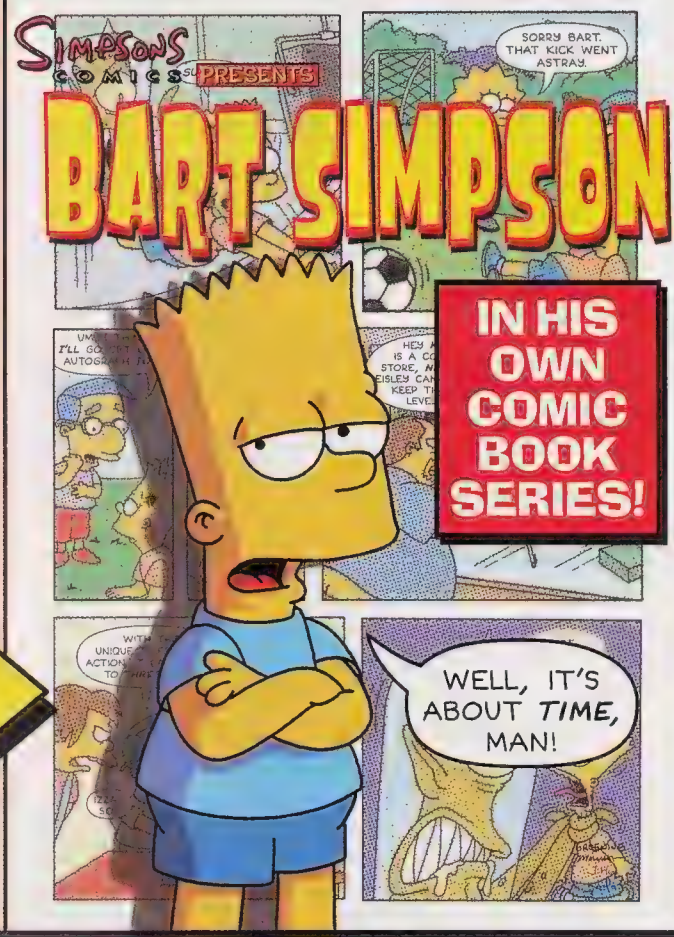
CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF

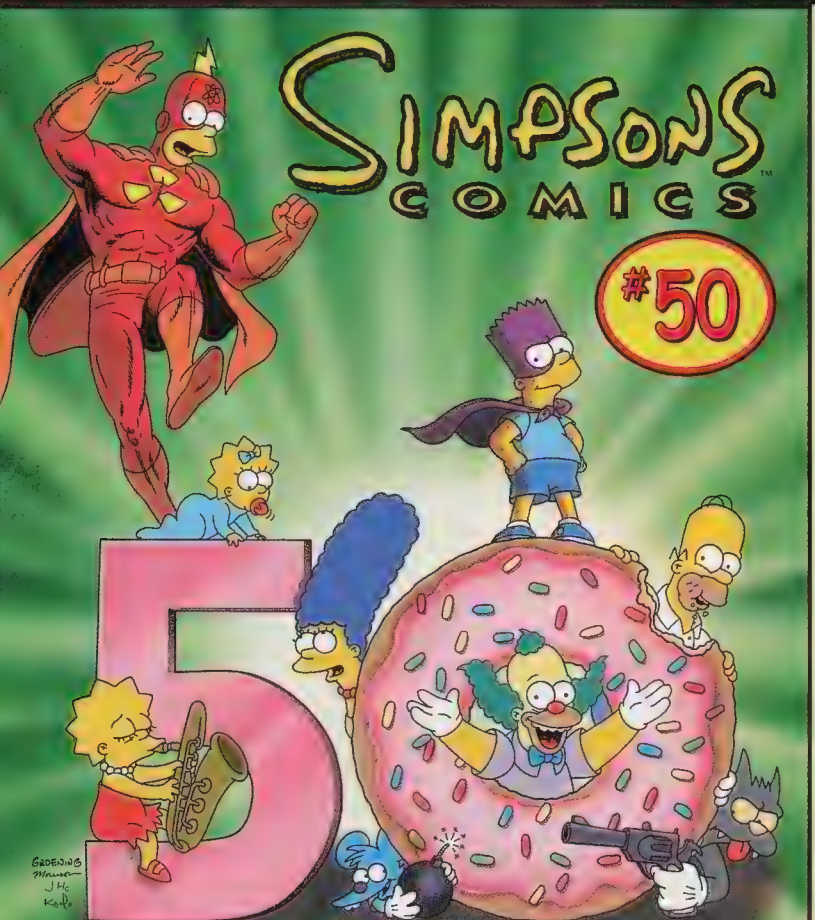
THE SIMPSONS

WITH 2 GREAT NEW COMICS FROM

BONGO!

BART SIMPSON #1!!


SIMPSONS COMICS PRESENTS
BART SIMPSON
SORRY BART. THAT KICK WENT ASTRAY.
IN HIS OWN COMIC BOOK SERIES!
WELL, IT'S ABOUT *TIME*, MAN!



AN ALL NEW **80-PAGE** SPECTACULAR STARRING ALL YOUR FAVORITE SIMPSONS CHARACTERS! COMING IN **AUGUST** FROM

COMICS BONGO GROUP

©2000 BONGO ENTERTAINMENT, INC. THE SIMPSONS ©&TM TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

GOIN' BUGGY

Toad's contact lenses were designed to look like detailed frog eyes. It wasn't easy, either–they had to redesign the method of painting the lenses to allow for the incredibly high level of detail.

HAIR RAISING

Toad's spiked hair is actually green, courtesy of a waxy sort of gel applied to Park's follicles.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Filmmakers gave Park's skin that unhealthy-looking, yellow-green pallor with a perfectly healthy coating of food coloring. "It's a sort of muddy, dirty kind of look," Smith says.

WARTS AND ALL

That's what you get when you play with frogs. While in character, Park sports several silicon warts–two on his forehead and at least one on his nose.

LICKED

Toad has a translucent, five-and-a-half-foot-long, green-and-yellow tongue which stretches out to about 12 feet. The fake tongue fits into Ray Park's mouth, but was essentially used for computer-generated reference in regards to scale, color and shape. "The only way the audience would believe a tongue like that is if it's constantly moving," Smith says.

STICKY FINGERS

Toad's hands were originally going to be webbed, but Smith talked the moviemakers out of it. Why? "It would have been a very, very difficult thing to maintain and have it look right," he said. "There's just so much movement in your hand...you compromise a great deal of the believability of the hand, no matter how good the glove looks."

Ray Park as TOAD

STAR'S STRIPE

The special-effects team created a white hair extension to enable Paquin to sport Rogue's characteristic streak, which *will* appear in the film.

CAJUN COOKIN'

The love of Rogue's life (well, in the comic, at least) nearly put in an appearance on the big screen. Word has it the card-throwin' Gambit was included in a "major" way in one of the film's early drafts.

GONE SOUTH

Rogue may be a southern belle, but Paquin's a kiwi. The Oscar-winning actress hails from New Zealand (specifically, the Lower Hutt).

FOSTER CARE

Don't expect "X-Men" to touch on the fact that Mystique is Rogue's foster mom in the comics. The film Rogue reportedly knows both of her parents, and runs away from home after her mutant powers emerge.

YOUNG GUN

The youngest of the X-Men has something her colleagues lack–an Academy Award. Paquin won an Oscar for her performance as Flora McGrath in 1993's "The Piano."

BACK UP

Anna Paquin donned a large prosthetic piece for a sequence where Logan runs her through with his claws. "Her whole back is a prosthetic," Smith said. "Underneath the prosthetic, on her skin, are the three little blades mounted and stuck underneath."

Anna Paquin as Rogue

X-FACTORS

A PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN OSHAWA, CANADA SERVED AS THE EXTERIOR OF PROFESSOR X'S MANSION. INTERIOR SCENES TOOK PLACE IN CASA LOMA, A CASTLE LOCATED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TORONTO.

X-MEN

THE MOVIE COLLECTIBLES

X-MEN Authentic COLLECTIBLES

4" HIGH REPLICA!
COMPLETELY MAGNETIZED!
A MAGNIFICENT DESK ACCESSORY!

MAGNETO'S DESKTOP MAGNET

SRP $39.95

*Mutant Powers Listed On Back

DOG TAGS
SRP $5.95

OTHER UNCANNY MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE:

WOLVERINE'S CLAW LETTER OPENER
SRP $69.95

PROF. X'S CEREBRO HELMET
SRP $295.00

CYCLOPS' RUBY QUARTZ VISOR
SRP $89.95

XAVIER ACADEMY GRADUATION RING
SRP $24.95

LAPEL PINS
SRP $6.95

Want insider information? Want exclusive merchandise? Join the X-Men Club! www.x-menclub.com

ORDER ALL OF THESE X-MEN ITEMS AND MORE AT

ANOTHER UNIVERSE .COM

NOT ONLINE? CALL ANOTHERUNIVERSE.COM AT 1.703.330.3500

YOU CAN ALSO GET YOUR MUTANT FIX AT TOWER RECORDS, MUSICLAND, AND A COMIC-BOOK STORE NEAR YOU. PHONE 1.888.266.3226 TO FIND A COMIC STORE NEAREST YOU.

Collectible Concepts Group, Inc.

For more mutant merchandise, visit www.collectibleconcepts.com!

DEVELOPED BY ART ASYLUM

MARVEL

TM & © 2000 MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. TM & © 2000 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

CASTING call

WIZARD casts the X-MEN MOVIE SEQUEL!

BY A BUNCH OF WIZARD STAFFERS

Hollywood's finally figured out what the rest of us have always known: the X-Men are the coolest crimefighters in town. Finally, the "X-Men" movie is here, but don't rejoice too hard, because now the *real* waiting begins—for the sequel! Sure, the first film's not even in theaters yet, but c'mon, it's a can't-miss slam dunk...so bring on X2 already! Fortunately for the filmmakers, Marvel's got mutants o' plenty, giving them even more colorful characters to work with than the Batman franchise. Feature all the team members who never made it into the original, focus the story on Hellfire Club leader Sebastian Shaw's plan to manufacture Sentinels, and the second X-Men film should be a license to print money.

TIA CARRERE as PSYLOCKE

The mind of a supremely powerful telepath. The body of a drop-dead gorgeous assassin. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to realize there's a short list of women who can play that role. For us, it's Tia Carrere ("Relic Hunter"), hands down.

X-FACTORS

EXCEPT FOR THEIR BRIEF APPEARANCE IN *GIANT SIZE X-MEN #1*, IT HAD BEEN NEARLY 21 YEARS (IN REAL TIME) SINCE THE FIVE ORIGINAL TEAM MEMBERS SERVED TOGETHER AS X-MEN WHEN THEY REUNITED IN 1991.

JON FAVREAU as BEAST

There's brains behind that brawn, so we need a guy who can play both. Jon Favreau showed he's one heck of a smart guy by writing, directing and starring in "Swingers." But don't let the glasses fool you—look at those guns!

ALAN CUMMING as NIGHTCRAWLER

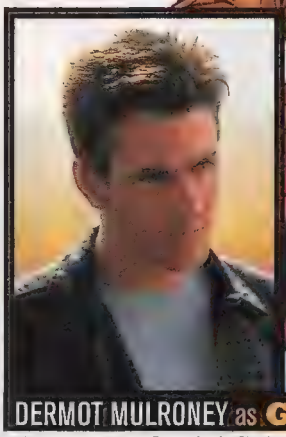
Alan Cumming's one of those sneaky guys who turns up with a wildly different part in every movie from "Spice World" to "GoldenEye" to "The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas." Sounds like the right talent to play the stealthy, teleporting Nightcrawler.

DAVID CHOKACHI as ARCHANGEL

Angel's a pretty-boy blonde. So who better than someone who's been on "Baywatch," like David Chokachi? What a lucky stiff. He gets to play Archangel *and* he knows Pamela Anderson.

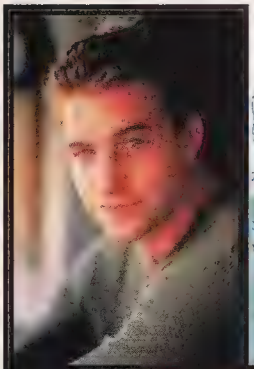
NATALIE PORTMAN as SHADOWCAT

Not only is she powerful and a gifted fighter, Kitty Pryde's a real cutie. Well, anyone who saw "Star Wars: Episode I—the Phantom Menace" knows that the gorgeous Natalie Portman can certainly hold her own in a pitched battle.



DERMOT MULRONEY as GAMBIT

To play the Ragin' Cajun, an actor's gotta have a dangerous physical presence *plus* dazzling charm. Dermot Mulroney was plenty smooth in "My Best Friend's Wedding," and showed off a dangerous side in "Young Guns." Sounds like the perfect combo to us.

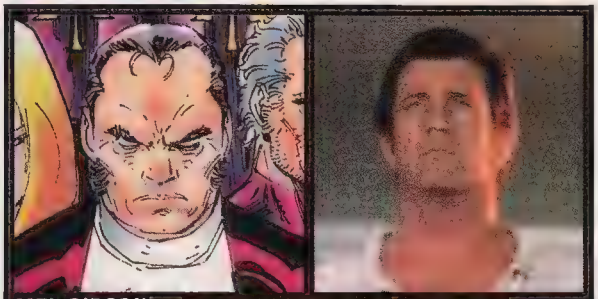


SCOTT SPEEDMAN as ICEMAN

Now don't get us wrong. We don't watch "Felicity." That's a chick show, man! But if we did, we're sure that star Scott Speedman would annoy the heck out of us. Just look at that smirk. Perfect for Iceman.

ROLAND KICKINGER as COLOSSUS

Roland Kickinger ("Son of the Beach") is a personal buddy of Arnold Schwarzenegger—they work out together. So when he asks to play the Russian mutant Colossus, tell ya what—*you* tell him no. We'll wait over here in the corner.



MEL GIBSON as SEBASTIAN SHAW

Sebastian Shaw's presence commands respect. Maybe it's the awesome kinetic-energy powers, maybe it's the megabucks, or maybe it's just that Revolutionary War-era apparel. We'll take Mel Gibson ("The Patriot") any day—you don't want to mess with him.

CARROT TOP as ARCADE

Arcade sure looks funny, don't he, kids? Well, he's not, because he kills. Scary. Carrot Top ("Chairman of the Board") has got a similar thing goin' on—it's scary that he gets work when actors are starving all over the streets of Hollywood. And then there's the hair!

BRIAN THOMPSON as APOCALYPSE

Not everybody's got the distinctive jawline necessary for a powerhouse like Apocalypse, but check out Brian Thompson ("Mortal Kombat: Annihilation")—he's a dead ringer! Just looking at this guy's enough to make most mortals weak in the knees.

GABRIEL BYRNE as PROTEUS

Sure, the evil, parasitic mutant Proteus had no body of his own—but remember that he inhabited human hosts, including his own father! Well, who better to play Proteus in the body of his selfish father, Joe MacTaggert, than Gabriel Byrne ("The Usual Suspects")?

QUIET ON THE SET!

X-FACTORS

IN THE "X-MEN" MOVIE, MAGNETO'S HELMET ACTUALLY COMES IN TWO PIECES. ONE PORTION OF THE HEADGEAR CAN BE REMOVED, LEAVING A MERLIN-STYLE SKULLCAP.

PHOTOS: CARRERE AND CARROT TOP COURTESY OF FOTO FANTASIES; CHOKACHI, SPEEDMAN, KICKINGER, GIBSON, MALIKONEY AND THOMPSON COURTESY OF THE EVERETT COLLECTION; FAVREAU, BYRNE © GERARDO SOMOZA/ CORBIS OUTLINE; CUMMING © LARRY FORD/ CORBIS OUTLINE; PORTMAN © THOMAS LAU/CORBIS OUTLINE

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL

CELEBRATES ITS 31st ANNIVERSARY

JULY 20-23, 2000

AT THE SAN DIEGO CONVENTION CENTER

THE LARGEST POPULAR ARTS GATHERING IN THE UNITED STATES FEATURING COMICS, MOVIE MEMOROBILIA, POP CULTURE ITEMS AND TONS MORE!

Gobs of panels, workshops and seminars on everything from breaking into the comic's biz, to learning how to create and apply special make-up appliances, to acting workshops to seminars on independent film making and special sneak previews of blockbuster movies and special premiers.

™ and © DC Comics. All Rights Reserved.

JOIN THESE SPECIAL GUESTS:

Kyle Baker
Will Eisner
Phoebe Gloeckner
Ben Katchor
Harry Knowles
Jeph Loeb
Scott McCloud
Don Maitz & Janny Wurts

Christopher Moeller
Tim Sale
Kevin Smith
Bill Stout
J. Michael Straczynski
Bryan Talbot
Lewis Trondheim
Gahan Wilson

Joining us to celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Flash and The Green Lantern will be Harry Lampert & Marty Nodell

co-sponsored w/AACC
Al Feldstein

Annie Gaines
Al Williamson
Marie Severin
Will Elder
Jack Kamen
Angelo Torres
Adele Kurtzman

co-sponsored w/Big Five
Gray Morrow

AND MANY, MANY MORE!

To receive a free **Comic-Con Update**, e-mail us at **cciweb@aol.com** or snail mail us at:
Comic-Con International, P.O. Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92115
www.comic-con.org • To have forms faxed to you call: **619-685-6985**

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL is a nonprofit educational corporation dedicated to creating awareness of and appreciation for comics and related popular art forms, primarily through the presentation of conventions and events that celebrate the historic and ongoing contribution of comics to art and culture.

SAN DIEGO COMIC CON INTERNATIONAL

COMING attracti

COMING SOON TO A THEATER, TV, ETC. NEAR YOU... MAYBE

SWINGING INTO ACTION

Director Raimi wows licensers with plans for 'Spider-Man' film

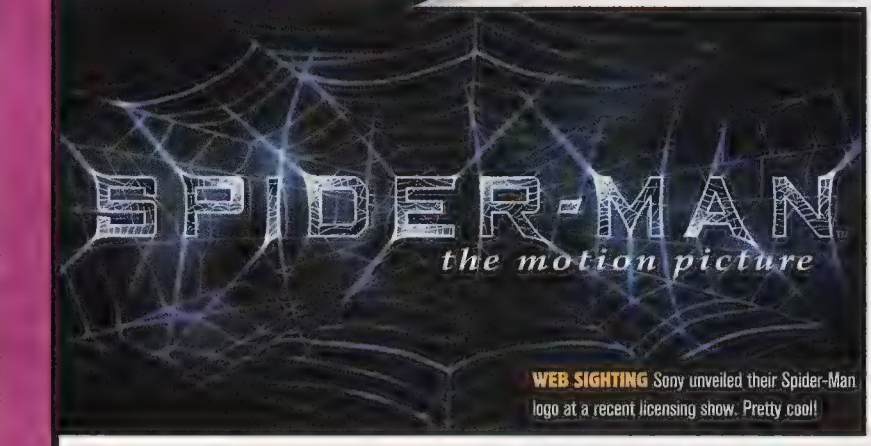
Sam has a plan, just no Spider-Man. With buzz on Sony's blockbuster "Spider-Man" film growing by the day, director Sam Raimi ("Army of Darkness," "Evil Dead") has stepped into the spotlight and publicly unveiled his plan for bringing 'ol Web-head to the big screen, slated for fall 2001. Final casting for the lead—and highly-coveted—role of nerd-by-day, wall-crawler-by-night Peter Parker has yet to be made but strong candidates have emerged. Heath Ledger ("The Patriot," "10 Things I Hate About You") reportedly has the inside track to strap on the web-shooters although Freddie Prinze Jr. ("She's All That") has made no bones about wanting the role.

Raimi whetted fanboys' appetites when he addressed an assemblage of 400 potential licensers for "Spider-Man: The Motion Picture," hosted by Sony Pictures Entertainment and Marvel Comics on the UCLA campus in Los Angeles recently.

"When I was young, I wanted to *be* Spider-Man," Raimi said after clips of his previous movies like "Darkman" and "A Simple Plan" were shown. "But my father told me that was a bad career choice, so I became a director instead."

Wizard has learned that villains for the film will include Green Goblin and Doctor Octopus. The plot for the film plans to stay true to Spidey's comic origin, as everyday Joe Peter Parker is bitten by a radioactive spider and develops incredible powers. Painting god Alex Ross (*Marvels*, *Kingdom Come*) has been approached about doing character designs for the movie.

The look and feel of "Spider-Man" could make or break this highly-anticipated project and visual effects wiz John Dykstra ("Stuart Little") has been picked to make it happen. "We're still sorting the character out," Dykstra told *The Hollywood Reporter*. "It's going to come down to what the character we've come to know on the printed



WEB SIGHTING Sony unveiled their Spider-Man logo at a recent licensing show. Pretty cool!

SPIDER-MAN PHOTO BY PAUL SCHIRALDI, TICK PHOTO COURTESY FOX 2000, ANGELINA JOLIE PHOTO COURTESY CORBIS OUTLINE © GEORGE HOLZ; BLADE PHOTO COURTESY NEW LINE CINEMA; HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN PHOTO COURTESY FOX FAMILY CHANNEL

X-FACTORS OH MY STARS AND GARTERS! GEORGE BUZA, WHO PROVIDED THE VOICE OF THE BEAST IN THE 1990S "X-MEN" ANIMATED SERIES, IS AN EXTRA IN THIS SUMMER'S "X-MEN" LIVE-ACTION FLICK.

page requires to bring him to life. It certainly won't be in any way pedestrian."

And making the visual landscape sizzle for "Spider-Man" represents the ultimate challenge to Raimi.

"I don't think there's ever been a time in history up until now that you really could've made this Spider-Man picture," said the veteran director. "Where you can really create these digital cities and we can soar with a Spider-Man above Manhattan."

However, Raimi maintained his code of silence about casting for Peter Parker, a crucial element in the project in trying to find an actor who can pull off Parker's nerdy everyman quality yet transform into a superhero.

"There are so many guys," said Raimi. "I've never been blessed with so many great young actors wanting to play the part. I was so surprised and my faith in the project was reaffirmed when each of them came up to me and said, 'I love Spider-Man. I've got to be Spider-Man.' This is how I felt and I think that a lot of kids feel that way.

"What I hope to put into the movie is what I found so attractive about the comic books. He is not pretending to be somebody, like Superman pretends to be Clark Kent. Superman is really cool and unstoppable and he winks at us with the glasses and says 'I'm just pretending to be a nerd.' But Peter really is. He never loses sight of who he is and that's what's great about him." ■ **THE *WIZARD* STAFF**

POWERPLAYER

MARVEL'S UNIVERSAL EXPANSION

It's amazing what a couple of blockbusters can do for a company's Hollywood image.

Not too long ago, Marvel couldn't get its properties arrested in Tinseltown. But thanks to the success of "Blade," positive buzz for the upcoming "X-Men" movie, and the hype surrounding "Spider-Man," Marvel properties are suddenly as hot in Hollywood as they are in your local comic store. The days of the god-awful "Punisher," "Captain America" and "Fantastic Four" flicks (the latter two of which sucked so bad they never even reached theaters) may at last be over.

A big movie announcement came during the Cannes Film Festival, when Marvel Films President Avi Arad announced that Marvel and Crystal Sky Entertainment (which produced the film "Baby Geniuses") will team up to produce a feature film version of "Ghost Rider." Scheduled to go into production early next year and based on a script by David Goyer ("Blade"), "Ghost Rider" will sport a reported budget of around $75 million and producers are looking to tap Johnny Depp ("From Hell") for the starring role of the stuntman who becomes a demonic, motorcycle-riding Spirit of Vengeance.

That announcement came on the heels of another production deal Marvel signed with Artisan Films (producers of "The Blair Witch Project") to produce multiple Marvel characters into feature films, including Captain America, Thor, Power Pack, Iron Fist, Deadpool, Black Panther, Morbius: The Living Vampire, Longshot, Ant-Man and Mort the Dead Teenager of all things!

There's also been movement on some of the usual Marvel movie suspects, like "Fantastic Four," "Hulk," and "Silver Surfer." Arad commented to *Wizard* on all these projects, and more.

About the "FF" film: "We're aiming for a release date of July 4, 2001. We've got a script and a director (Raja Gosnell) in place, and we'll be casting very soon."

On the "Hulk," for which Marvel recently tapped writer Michael Tolkin ("Deep Impact") to pen the script: "Slated by Universal for a Thanksgiving 2001 or summer 2002 release. Big announcements on this one are coming very soon." Perhaps on the rumors that George Clooney is targeted for the role of Bruce Banner? Or Steve Buscemi?

Concerning "Silver Surfer": "Still in development at Fox," is all Arad would say. But if fans can't wait to wax the Surfer's board, they can check out a short, homemade flick at **www.atomfilms.com** featuring a CGI Surfer!

Will all these films get made? Probably not–for every film you see, ten remain forever "in development." Still, it seems Marvel has learned what DC found out with its Batman franchise–great story plus great talent equals great films (for the most part). "It's incredible how much worldwide interest there is for Marvel characters." Arad said. "The public has always been behind us, but recently, Hollywood has really become enamored with us. And that's going to let us make some really good films in the next few years." ■ **JAMES BUSBEE AND THE *WIZARD* STAFF**

'TICK' STICKS TO FOX

Hits network mid-2001

"Tick" fans, get out your spoons!

Ben Edlund's absurd and beloved creation the Tick has officially been added to Fox TV's upcoming Fall schedule, and will most likely be used as a mid-season replacement.

The show stars Patrick Warburton (Puddy from "Seinfeld") as the big blue ersatz crimefighter the Tick, and co-stars David Burke as Arthur, Liz Vassey as American Woman (formerly American Maid) and Nestor Carbonell as Bat Manuel (formerly Die Fledermaus). Barry Sonnenfeld, of "Men in Black" fame, and Barry Josephson are producing the show in association with Sony Pictures Television, and both serve as executive producers along with Edlund.

Fox provided this promotional description of the show:

"Wherever villainy rears its great, big, ugly head, wherever evil sets its giant ill-smelling foot, it is there you will find THE TICK! Evil comes in many forms—be it man-eating cow or Joseph Stalin, but you can't let the package hide the pudding. Evil is just plain bad. You don't cotton to it, you just gotta smack it on the nose with the rolled-up newspaper of goodness! Bad dog! Bad dog!"

Make some room on the shelf for the Emmys.

■ THE *WIZARD* STAFF

SILLY PUDDY Patrick Warburton steps out of Seinfeld's shadow to play the somewhat superhero the Tick.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

TWICE THE TOMB RAIDER

So sizzling vixen, brother-kissin' Angelina Jolie-Bob-Thornton has been tabbed to play Lara Croft in the upcoming "Tomb Raider" film. **Wizard** *decided to take a look and see how much the tattoo-sporting Jolie and our favorite relic collector Croft really have in common.*

	JOLIE	CROFT
AGE	25	32
HEIGHT	5-7	5-9
DAUGHTER OF	An actor	A lord
MAKES OUT WITH	Brother	Treasures
CLAIM TO FAME	Starred in "The Bone Collector"	*Is* a bone collector
DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT...	You may have missed her in "Girl, Interrupted"	You'll probably miss her if your system's corrupted
FULL FRONTAL	Appeared fully nude in the HBO movie "Gia"	Appears fully nude on desktops of lonely gamers
IDEA OF ROMANCE	Got married in black rubber pants and a white shirt with groom's name written in blood	Umm, she might only be a video game, but at least she's not a whack job

X-FACTORS

G'DAY, MATE! NO, WOLVERINE'S NOT TURNING AUSTRALIAN, BUT ACTOR HUGH JACKMAN, AN AUSSIE BY BIRTH, HAS ADOPTED A "VERY GOOD" NORTH AMERICAN ACCENT FOR HIS ROLE AS WOLVERINE IN THIS SUMMER'S "X-MEN" FILM.

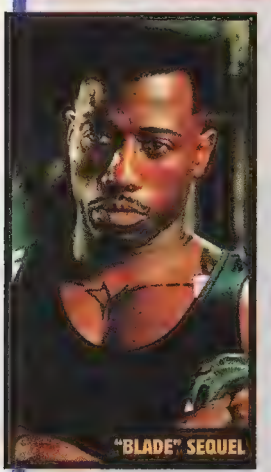
TRAILERS...

THE NEW ANAKIN

CHRISTENSEN GOES SKYWALKIN' Nineteen-year old Hayden Christensen, who most recently appeared in the film "The Virgin Suicides" and is best known for his regular part on the Fox series "Higher Ground," will portray the more mature Anakin Skywalker in the next two **"Star Wars"** sequels, the first of which, "Episode II," began filming in Australia in June. Christensen has little big-time professional experience, but reportedly beat out four other actors, including Leo DiCaprio and Ryan Phillippe, in the final round of auditions with co-star Natalie Portman (Queen Amidala). Christensen inherits the part from child actor Jake Lloyd, who played Anakin in "Phantom Menace." As Star Wars fans know, Anakin goes on to become the evil Darth Vader after succumbing to the Dark Side of the Force. "I'm getting ready to go to the Dark Side," said Christensen at a press conference announcing his getting the part.

'FILES' FEUD ENDS IN DRAW David Duchovny officially signed on to appear in 11 of next season's 22 episodes of **"The X-Files,"** despite claims in the past that he would not return for an eighth season. Series creator Chris Carter maintained all along that the show would go on without the star. Duchovny also recently received a settlement in his ongoing lawsuit with Carter and Fox over syndication residuals from the show, and combined with his salary demands for next year, has cashed in an almost $30 million payday. Now *that's* a tale of the unexplained.

HELLISH COLLABORATOR *Hellboy* creator Mike Mignola is rumored to be mulling over a request to collaborate on the upcoming **"Blade II"** movie by director Guillermo del Toro. Mignola would most likely work as a conceptual designer on the film. Mignola and del Toro have a previous professional relationship, working on adapting Hellboy for the big screen.


"BLADE" SEQUEL

FAT CHOWS DOWN ON 'MONK' Hong Kong action star Chow Yun Fat ("The Replacement Killers") has been tapped to play the cult comic character Bulletproof Monk in a feature film by longtime collaborator **John Woo** ("Mission: Impossible 2"). MGM green-lighted the project after getting the pitch from series publisher and Executive Producer Michael Yanover.

PARKER, STONE PARTY ON **"South Park"** creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone recently signed a huge, three-year production deal with Comedy Central to produce a new, live-action series for the cable network. There's no details yet concerning the new project, but sources close to the duo say the show will be a political satire timed to coincide with the change of power in the White House.

'KRYPTON' FALLS ON U.S. Fox has acquired the U.S. rights to the hit European game show "The Krypton Factor." The show takes its name from **Superman's** famous comic book-home planet. The show combines physical endurance, general knowledge and mechanical challenges to test the prowess of its contestants. No word yet on whether Lois Lane will show up to turn letters...

STIMULATING STAN **Stan Lee Media** and Paramount Studios have joined forces in association with Blur Studio to create "Stan Lee's 7th Portal 3-D Simulation Experience," an attraction to be added to Paramount's theme parks. Paramount also agreed to sell merchandise and provide links between its Website and Stan Lee Media's. In addition, Iwerks Entertainment will distribute the simulation theater internationally.

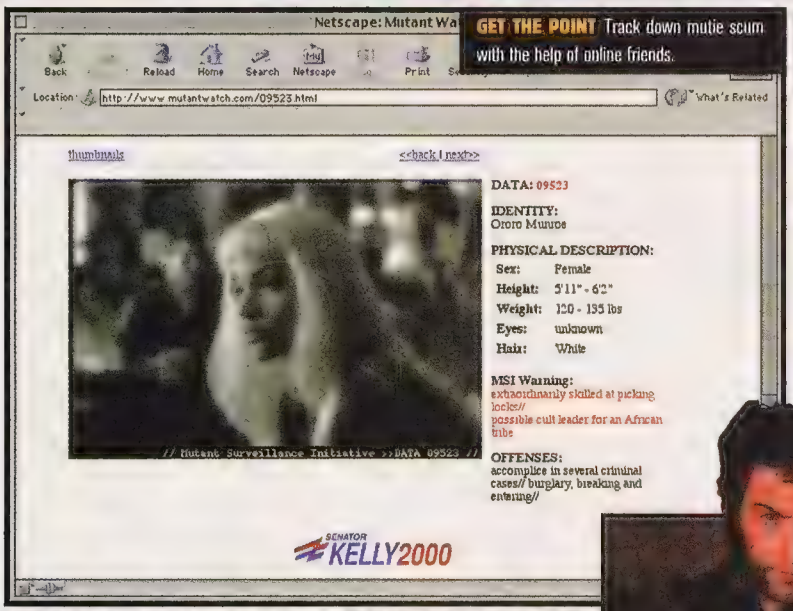
SHORT TAKES **Judd Winick's** *The Adventures of Barry Ween: Boy Genius* series from Image Comics gets the screenplay treatment, courtesy of Platinum Studios... Scottish actor Robbie Coltrane joins **Johnny Depp** and Co. in Fox 2000's film adaptation of Alan Moore and Eddie Campell's *From Hell*...Steve Rude confirmed recently that development on an animated **"Nexus"** series at Sony has come to an end...Mega-creator Todd McFarlane says there's not one but *two* **Spawn** films in development right now: a live-action sequel to 1997's "Spawn" and a feature-length animated flick, which could show up on HBO, another cable network or go straight to video...Stars **Will Smith** and Tommy Lee Jones and director Barry Sonnenfeld have all reportedly signed on to work on the long-awaited sequel to "Men in Black"... Prepare to plug the X-Men into your stereo. Screenmusic Records is releasing the "X-Men Album," a collection of music from and inspired by the 1988 X-Men animated TV movie, "Pryde of the X-Men." Look out for tracks from Mobb Deep, Tru Life and Ghetto Inmates, as well as four interviews with X-Men creator Stan Lee!

■ **THE *WIZARD* STAFF**

SPAWN 2

dot.comics

COOL COMIC-RELATED STUFF ON THE INTERNET



GET THE POINT Track down mutie scum with the help of online friends.

THE X-FILES

Get the full mutant skinny on the official 'X-Men' movie Website

How well do you know your neighbors? We mean *really* know your neighbors. Well, if the official Website for the "X-Men" movie's any indication, you don't know 'em at all, 'cause they could all be mutants.

Playing on the film's theme of mutant paranoia, the folks at 20th Century Fox have revved up a virtual home for the mutie-hating Senator Kelly. Just surf over to **www.xmenthemovie.com** for a link to Kelly's anti-mutant campaign. (Or go straight to **www.mutantwatch.com.**)

Filled with scientific reports on the threat posed by mutated DNA, fake news reports, and links to real university sites on genetics, you might seriously start believing the mutant hype.

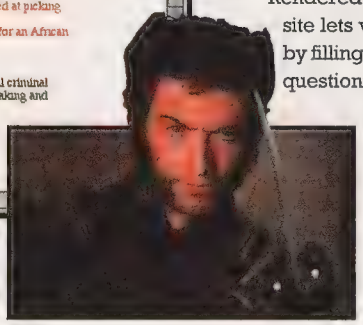
"Authenticity was extremely important in order to build credibility," said Jeffrey Godsick, Fox's executive vice-president for publicity and promotion. "But we also wanted to build something that fans and non-fans will enjoy. It's a way to draw people in."

Painstakingly detailed, the Mutant Watch site includes a campaign commercial, where the ever-paranoid Kelly brags he's "fighting for a brighter and safer future for all Americans." There's also a mutant registry where you can rat out suspected mutants, a hotline (310-369-4443) for more information on the mutant threat, and grainy, surveillance-style photos and FBI-like bios of suspected mutants.

Sound over the top? That's the idea.

"Our goal is to build a community and to create a viable campaign," Godsick said. "We're working closely with all the filmmakers. We want the mythology to be accurate."

For you mutant *supporters* out there, the main xmenthemovie.com site is just as detailed. Modeled after the computer Cerebro, one of the site's most fascinating offerings is Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, a virtual version of the famed training academy.



Rendered in lush graphics, the site lets visitors gain entrance by filling out a detailed mutant questionnaire. If you're lucky and have a power, you're in. Then it's time to visit rooms with movie scenes and lots of background info. Access to some rooms is blocked, however, and you can only gain entrance by having your friends pass the mutant test and join you.

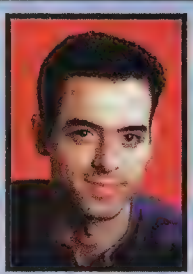
"You'll have to find one or two other people to go into the rooms, maybe up to four people," Godsick said. "Then, you'll be able to play special games."

Also on tap are weekly chats with cast and crew, a full-cast chat during premiere week, and a live Webcast of the movie's July 14 premiere. ■ JOHN L. MICEK

WOLVERINE PICTURE COURTESY 20TH CENTURY FOX, JOE MADUREIRA PHOTO BY PAUL SCHRADER

SURFREPORT

CREATORS' FAVORITE SITES



"I like to research movies and directors at sites like Hollywood.com. I also check out Gamespot.com and IGN.com to read about the latest video games. My browser boots me onto Napster.com and my brother comes over to download MP3s all the time. (Though even I've found some classic ditties on there! Rick Springfield, YEAH!)"

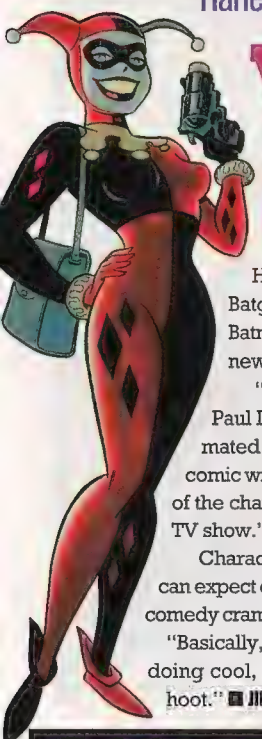
—JOE MADUREIRA, former Uncanny X-Men artist, occasional writer/artist on Battle Chasers

www.hollywood.com
www.ign.com
www.gamespot.com
www.napster.com

X-FACTORS Yeah, the blue-skinned Mystique (Raven Darkholme) is Rogue's foster mother, but she also happens to be Nightcrawler's actual mother. Guess that means Rogue is Nightcrawler's half-sister. (*Uncanny X-Men* #178 *X-Men Unlimited* #4)

GIRLS OVERRUN GOTHAM

Harley, Ivy, get solo adventures



While Batman's away, the ladies will play. And they'll do it online.

Warnerbros.com will play host in August to "Gotham Girls," a brand-new series of 10, three-minute flash-animated "Webisodes" starring the *femme fatales* of Gotham City—Harley Quinn, Poison Ivy, Catwoman, Batgirl and Zatanna. And fans of "The New Batman Adventures" can rest assured these new cartoon shorts will ring true.

"I'm writing about four episodes," said Paul Dini, co-producer of the "Batman" animated series. "Hilary Bader [*Batman Beyond* comic writer] is also writing a few. And the look of the characters will be taken directly from the TV show."

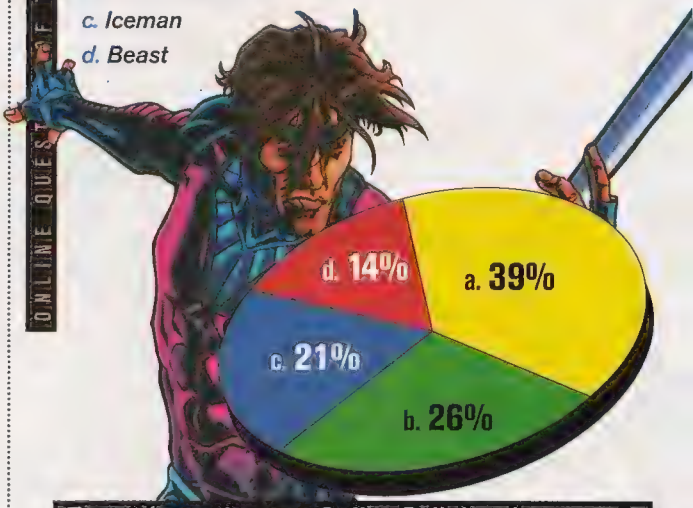
Characters may fly solo or interact. And fans can expect everything from all-out action to straight comedy crammed into each three-minute Webisode. "Basically, it's just the cool, cute girls of Gotham doing cool, cute stuff," said Dini. "It should be a hoot." ■ JIM McLAUCHLIN

ONLINE QUEST OF THE MONTH

SURVEY SAYS...

WHAT X-MAN DO YOU MOST WANT TO SEE IN THE "X-MEN" MOVIE SEQUEL?

a. Gambit
b. Nightcrawler
c. Iceman
d. Beast



To get in on the next Online Poll, head on over to wizardworld.com and cast your vote.

ONLINE DATEBOOK

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SAT JULY 1

BIRTHDAY: Barb Wire's babe Pamela Anderson Lee
www.li.net/~kirkg/barbwire/barbhome.htm

SUN 2

SUPERHEROES, EH? Commemorate Alpha Flight leader Guardian's death, July 1984.
www.kirk.prohosting.com/department_h/

MON 3

OLD SCHOOL *Sentry* #1 launches this month, introducing a Stan Lee hero created before the Fantastic Four. For info on Marvel's early days:
www.geocities.com/Athens/Olympus/7160/wicksint.html

TUE 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY: Join li'l firecracker Courtney Whitmore, the new Star-Spangled Kid, in celebratin' our kicking England's butt!
www.cornhusker.net/~superboy/

WED 5

DIVE IN! Aspen Matthews (*Fathom*) celebrates the anniversary of the bikini's debut, 1946.
www.fathomcom.com/

THU 6

BIRTHDAY: The Boy Wonder himself, Burt Ward
www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/7537/bward.htm

FRI 7

MARS ATTACKS: NASA's Pathfinder landed on Mars this month, 1997. Unfortunately, it didn't find anything nearly as cool as this Martian Manhunter Lego:
www.planetofthegeeks.com/workbench/lego/jla.html

SAT 8

RING IT! Celebrate the first ringing of the Liberty Bell, 1776, by playing the online All-Star Squadron game as Squadroneer, Liberty Belle:
www.cae.wisc.edu/~gansler/asmmush.htm

SUN 9

WAR PIGS! *Cerebus* #100 shipped this month, 1987.
cerebus.org

MON 10

SPEECHLESS Mel Blanc, the voice of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and hundreds of other cartoon characters, died this date in 1989. Check out sound clips from the "Man of 1,000 Voices" at:
www.sassystuff.com/bb.htm

TUE 11

WONDER BOY! Dick Grayson (Robin) became Nightwing this month, 1984.
members.aol.com/r3v3lation/index1.html

WED 12

PHONE HOME! "E.T." broke box office records this month in 1982, earning over $100-million in 31 days.
www.azstarnet.com/~newmann/et/

THU 13

BIRTHDAY: The X-Men and Star Trek join forces to celebrate Patrick Stewart's b-day!
www.tu-berlin.de/~stewart-page/

FRI 14

MUTANT MANIA! Grab yer popcorn and hit the theaters. Some li'l flick called "X-Men" opens today.
www.xmenthemovie.com, www.marvel.com/xmen

SAT 15

HEAVY METAL! Over 74,000 Pittsburgh steel workers strike, 1901. Reliving Shaquille O'Neal's "Steel:"
www.wbmovies.com/steel/main.html

SUN 16

BOOM! The U.S. detonated the first atomic bomb, 1945, with Dr. Bruce Banner's gamma bomb coming several years later:
www.hulk-emm.com/

PAM LEE ANDERSON, BURT WARD, ET, STEEL AND ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER ALL COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION. PATRICK STEWART COURTESY 20TH CENTURY FOX

INSEARCHOF...

THE COOLEST AND WACKIEST SITES ON THE WEB

SILVER SURFER MOVIES?
http://www.atomfilms.com/
Why wait for Hollywood. Just type in "Silver Surfer" at the search section and watch a cosmic five-minute Surfer movie! Make sure you watch straight through the credits...

ANIMATED STAR WARS?
download.theforce.net/stardudes.html
Don't have two hours to kill watching "Star Wars"? Then check out this three-minute animated movie that hysterically captures the entire film.

GUN-TOTING HOMER?
www.quakefiles.com/files
Play the kick-ass, video game Quake *as your favorite characters. Download new skins and modes for Cyclops, Blade and even Homer Simpson.*

AVENGERS ICONS?
www.iconsplus.com
Redecorate your computer desktop with awesome icons of your favorite heroes like the Avengers, the Fantastic Four, JLA, X-Men, Star Wars, Star Trek and yes, even Valiant characters!

SPYBOY SWAG?
www.spyboy.net
Get the latest scoop on Dark Horse's teenage spy, plus gadgets, T-shirts, mission logs, plus links to serious spy sites like the FBI, Kremlin, and more.

VIDEO GAME CLASSICS?
www.shockwave.com
Go retro! Play classic arcade games like Defender, Joust, Spy Hunter, Rampage, Root Beer Tapper *and more right online! No quarters necessary.*

RAD COMIC MOVIE REVIEWS?
www.mrqe.com
Wanna know what Ebert thought of "Batman and Robin"? Just enter your favorite flick in this review search engine and get links to tons of movie reviews.

ONLINE DATEBOOK CONT.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MON 17 **BIRTHDAY:** Join ol' one-eyed Nick Fury in celebrating David Hasselhoff's birthday. *www.fortunecity.com/tattooine/leiber/18/*

TUE 18 **FANTASTIC!** John Byrne starts his solo stint on *Fantastic Four*, 1981. *danscam.home.mindspring.com/*

WED 19 **TOMB RAIDER!** Archaeologists discovered the Rosetta Stone, 1799. For a great Lara Croft site: *www.thelastrevelation.com/*

THU 20 **COMIC CON:** The 2000 San Diego Comic Con International opens today in the San Diego Convention Center: *www.comic-con.org/*

FRI 21 **FRAG!** DC's *Hitman/Lobo: That Stupid Bastich* shoots its way into comic shops this month. *www.geocities.com/Area51/Labyrinth/5178/index.html*

SAT 22 **GO APE!** The famed Scopes Monkey trial began this month, 1925 and had nothing to do with Beppo, Gleek or any other simians on Mr. Monkey's home page: *www.citizenlunchbox.com/monkey/*

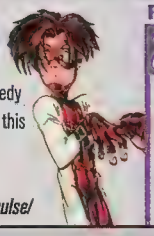
SUN 23 **BIRTHDAY:** Get yer superlong Bat-ears out for Kelley Jones' birthday *www.geocities.com/Area51/Lair/8679/index.html*

MON 24 **BIRTHDAY:** Hey, sugah—Oscar-winner Anna Paquin (Rogue in "X-Men") was born on this day, 1982. *www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/5648/anna.htm*

TUE 25 **I SPY!** Authorities sentenced spy-babe Mata Hari to death, 1917. For Black Widow info: *members.aol.com/jrockleyjr/TheWidowsBite.html*

WED 26 **COLLECT IT!** *Wizard* #108, the Ultimate Collector's issue, swings into comic shops today, with all sorts of collecting goodies. *www.wizardworld.com*

THU 27 **THINK FAST** Impulse made a speedy debut in *Flash* #92, this month in 1994: *www.west.net/~zinger/vortex/impulse/*



FRI 28 **MOO!** Top Cow's havin' a party! Why? It's Rising Stars month. Celebrate with creator J. Michael Straczynski. www.topcow.com/

SAT 29 **BIRTHDAY:** Wish a hearty happy birthday to Rocketeer creator Dave Stevens: *www.davestevens.com*

SUN 30 **BIRTHDAY:** Celebrate Arnold Schwarzenegger's birthday with the Terminator game: *www.cs.virginia.edu/oracle/arnie.html*

MON 31 **MOBBED!** Jimmy Hoffa went missing, 1975. For info on other mob bosses like the Kingpin: *www.sigma.net/burch/meglo.html*

E-mail us your favorite sites at: *dotcomics@wizardworld.com*

DAVID HASSELHOFF COURTESY FOX TV; ANNA PAQUIN COURTESY 20TH CENTURY FOX; GEORGE CLOONEY COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION

GIBSON GUITARS AND Toysrus.com PRESENT:

THE X-MEN MUSICAL MUTANT CONTEST!

CONTEST

GRAND PRIZE (1): One lucky rocker will win an X-Men Gibson Guitar. This highly limited edition, collectible guitar features your favorite mutant Wolverine valued at over $6,000! This Gibson guitar is based on an original piece of artwork by renowned artist Bill Sienkiewicz to commemorate the release of the "X-Men" movie! Only 50 of these guitars will be offered. Each Guitar comes certified as one of the only 50 available globally, a deluxe hard shell case and a lifetime warranty.

FIRST PRIZE (15): Fifteen chances to win a $100 gift certificates to Toysrus.com, Marvel's offical X-Men online store! "Enter the evolution"and check out Toysrus.com for exclusive X-Men products.

10 MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

Log onto www.WizardWorld.com before August 31, 2000 to win one of ten additional $100 gift certificates from Toysrus.com

HOW TO WIN: Just fill out the entry form below and send it to the address below. We'll pick the winners from all the completed entries.

MARVEL COMICS

Gibson Since 1894

TOYSRUS.COM

THIS CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY GIBSON GUITARS, Toysrus.com

ENTER NOW!

Fill this out, attach your entry and put it in an envelope. Send it to:

The X-Men Musical Mutant Contest,
c/o Wizard: The Comics Magazine,
P.O. Box 118,
Congers, NY 10920-0118
DEADLINE IS August 31, 2000.

HEAD BANGING LEGAL

No purchase necessary. Contest is open to anyone except employees of Wizard Entertainment Group, Gibson Guitars, Toysrus.com, their immediate families and anyone who has witnessed a guitar being smashed on-stage and thought it was cool. Print your name, date of birth, address, city, state, zip and telephone number with area code on the official entry form or a 3-by-5-inch index card, and attach the form or card to your entry. Enter as many times as you like. Mail your entries to: The X-Men Musical Mutant Contest, c/o Wizard: The Comics Magazine, P.O. Box 118, Congers, NY 10920-0118. No mechanical reproductions of completed forms are accepted, but you can photocopy the entry form before filling it out if you don't want to mess up your magazine. All entries and all rights relating thereto become property of Wizard Entertainment Group and none will be returned. All taxes (federal, state and local, if any) will be the responsibility of the prize winners. Prizes are awarded in the names of the contest winners and are not transferable. Offer void where prohibited, regulated or restricted by law in a manner inconsistent with the purposes and rules hereof. All entries must be received at contest headquarters by August 31, 2000. Wizard Entertainment Group is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries. Winners will be randomly selected from among all properly completed entries by Wizard Entertainment Group. Odds of winning will be determined by the number of valid entries received prior to the closing date of the contest. If an entrant, having been declared as a winner, does not accept the prize or the prize or prize notification is undeliverable, another entry will be selected. In the event that a prize is not available or it becomes impossible for the sponsor to award the prize that has been designated, the sponsor retains the right to substitute a prize or product of equal value to the winner. Determination of whether a prize or product is of equal value is in the sole discretion of the sponsor. Winning entries will be selected on or about September 20, 2000. Gibson and Dove Wing Peghead are registered trademarks used with the permission of Gibson Guitar Corp. © Gibson Musical Instruments. © Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. © 2000 Toysrus.com, LLC. PLEASE NOTE: Guitar picture is an artist rendition. Specifications are subject to change.

For a list of winners, available after September 20, 2000, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The X-Men Musical Mutant Contest Winners List, c/o Wizard Entertainment Group, P.O. Box 118, Congers, NY 10920-0118.

Musical Mutant Contest Entry Form

CONTEST DEADLINE August 31, 2000!

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (with area code) _____ E-mail _____

BASIC TRAINING

ED McGUINNESS SHOWS YOU

HOW TO DRAW SUPERMAN

PHOTO: PAUL SCHRADER

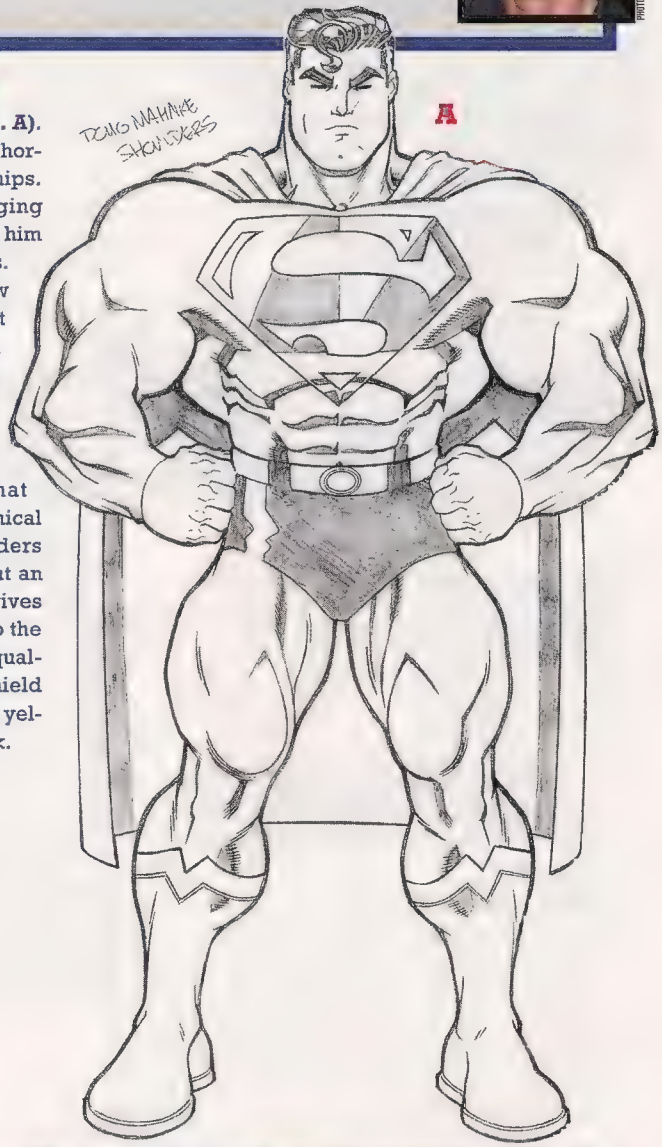
There are many different approaches to take when drawing the Man of Steel, and so many artists past and present have put their "stamp" on this hero's hero. Some come quickly to mind: Joe Shuster (of course!), Curt Swan, Neal Adams, John Byrne, Bruce Timm, Alex Ross...and the list continues. As penciler of *Superman*, I've been inspired by all or most. Here's my spin on the Metropolis Marvel...

LARGE AND IN CHARGE

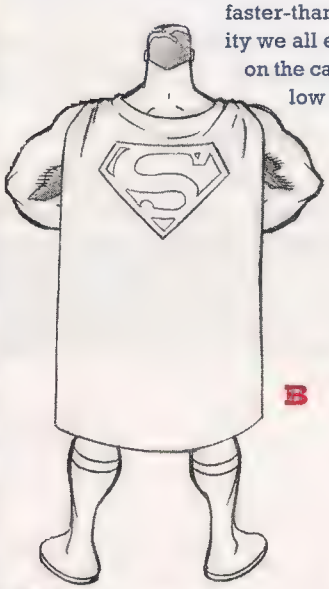
Let's get started with Superman's signature pose **(Fig. A)**. This is his "casual" stance. He should always exude authority and look ever confident: hence the arms on the hips. Note the wide stance and firmly-planted feet. A raging locomotive couldn't budge this guy! Everything about him should scream leadership, down to the way he stands.

For the physique, I owe so much to the animated show (Bruce Timm and the gang) for my inspiration that it's not even funny. I see Superman as being larger than life, and draw him as big as a battleship, all the way down to his 26-inch guns! He should, in my opinion, *look* like he could leap a tall building in a single bound!

His cape generally shouldn't drape over his shoulders (that's Batman's gig), but behind them—that accentuates the muscles. To quote the always anatomical *Superman: Man of Steel* artist Doug Mahnke, "Shoulders make the hero." The cape should always hang about an inch or two above the back of his boots **(Fig. B)**; this gives it a less-cumbersome feel and adds more credence to the faster-than-a-speeding-bullet quality we all enjoy. Note the "S" shield on the cape is colored entirely yellow with no spotted black.



A

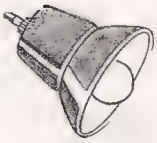


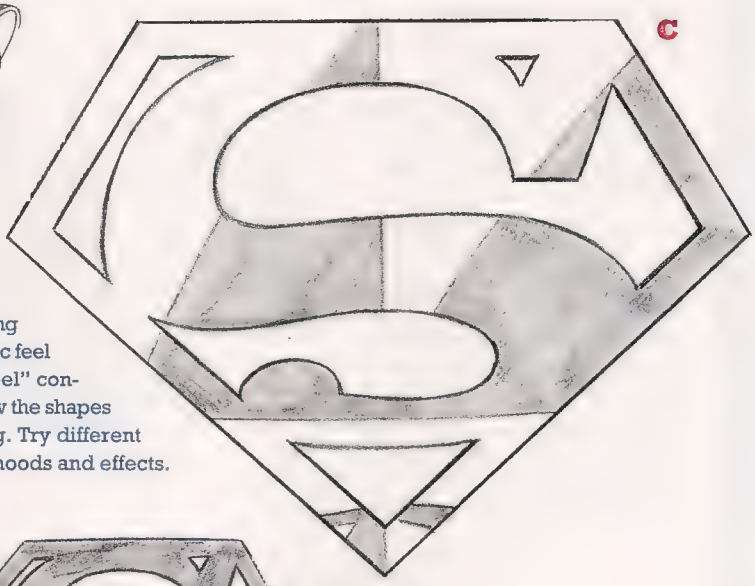
B

X-FACTORS When did The Dream begin? Xavier first envisioned a peaceful mutant/human coexistence after defeating Amahl Farouk, the very first evil mutant he ever came across. Farouk, of course, later became the Shadow King. (*Uncanny X-Men* #117)

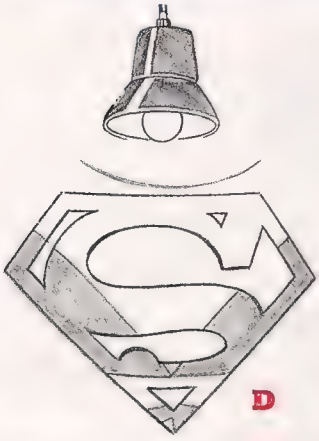
THE BULLET BOUNCER

Onto the next subject: The "S" shield **(Fig. C)**, one of the most recognized symbols in the world today!! To me this is the core of the character. I try to expound upon that notion by spotting blacks on the red of the emblem to add weight. Leaving the yellow part of the emblem unrendered is fun, making it a graphic device! I try to give the red a metallic feel to further push (subtly) the whole "Man of Steel" concept. Of course, the spotted blacks should follow the shapes of his chest and sternum in relation to lighting. Try different sources of light **(Figs. D** and **E)** for different moods and effects. Remember: Draw the shield big and bold!





C

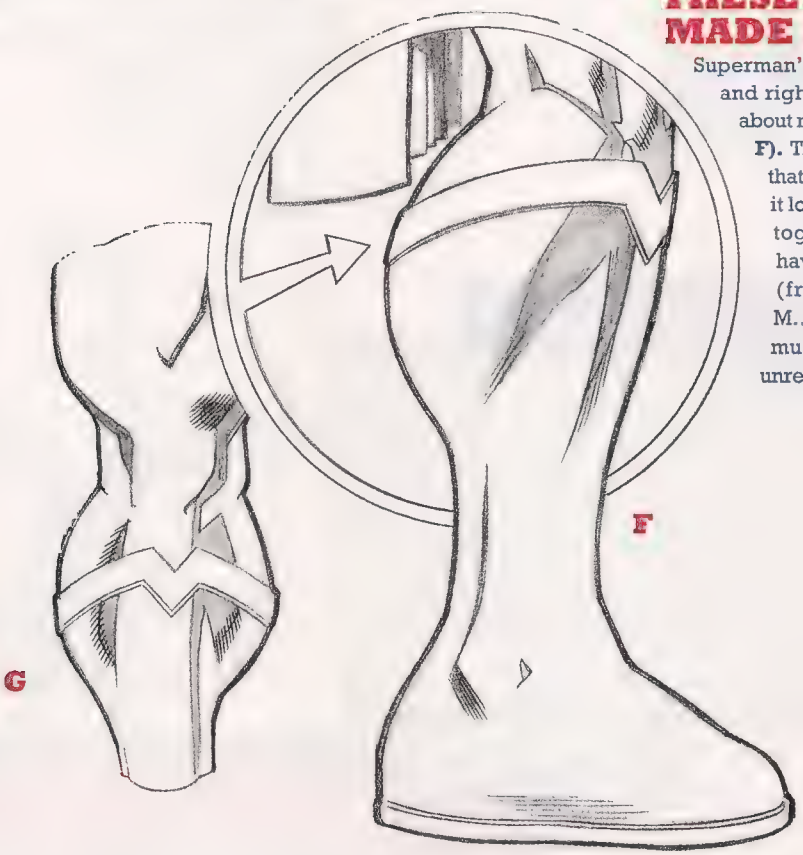


D

E

THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR WALKING

Superman's boots are pretty cool. Simple and right to the point, they come up to about mid-calf and end with a band **(Fig. F).** The neat thing about this band is that if you look closely from the front, it looks like an "M" **(Fig. G)**! Put this together with the shield and you have "S" (from the shield) and "M" (from the band on boots), S-M...Superman! Or maybe I draw too much. Oh yeah, I leave said band unrendered also, as a graphic device!

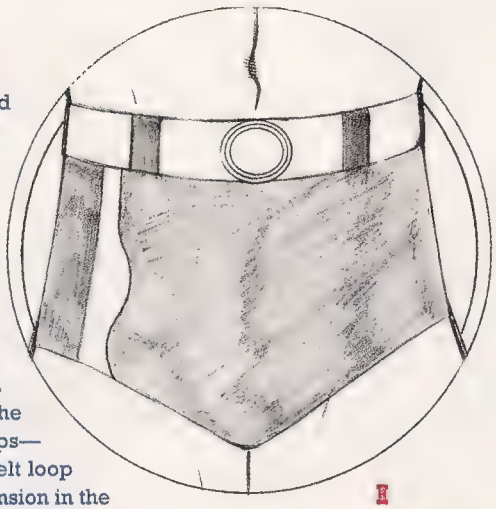


F

G

UNDEROOS

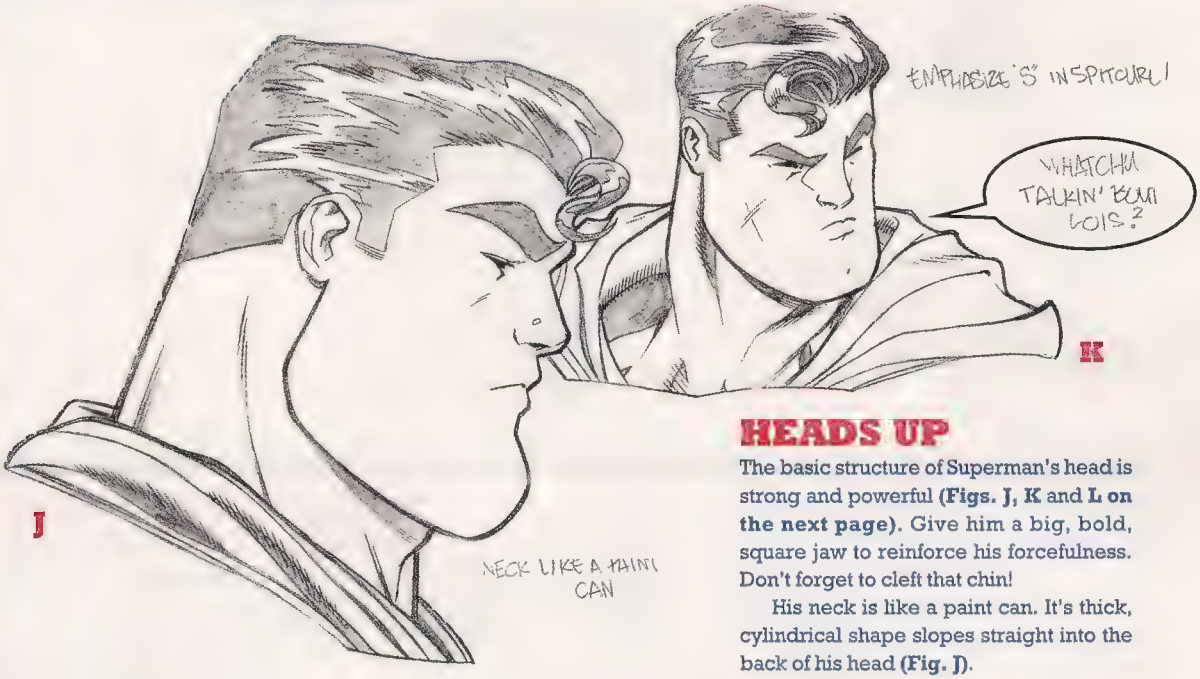
Once again, hats off to the animated crew for making underwear on the outside respectable! To them, I owe my most blatant riff, but the core blacks on the trunks is just too genius to pass up **(Fig. H)**. The rules of this style of rendering are really very simple: Superman's trunks are penciled in black with a thin sheen of light gleaming up one or both hips. Watch out for the placement of the sheen in relation to the belt loops—never run the sheen up to the belt loop **(Fig. I)**, as it creates too much tension in the overall design. Stand clear of dem loops!



I

H

MOST BLATANT ANIMATED RIFF! THANKS BRUCE TIMM!



J

K

HEADS UP

The basic structure of Superman's head is strong and powerful **(Figs. J, K and L on the next page)**. Give him a big, bold, square jaw to reinforce his forcefulness. Don't forget to cleft that chin!

His neck is like a paint can. It's thick, cylindrical shape slopes straight into the back of his head **(Fig. J)**.

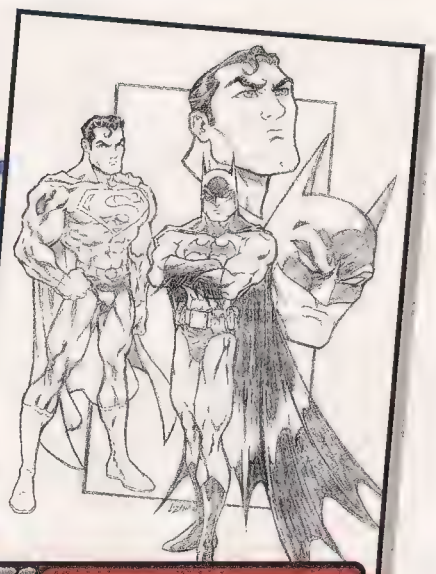
DRAWINGBOARD

THE PROS GIVE ADVICE

ED McGUINNESS SAYS...

Wow! What a great picture by Lorenzo Lizana from St. Louis, Mo.! A very stylized take on two of comics greatest heroes! The anatomy is very solid and consistent. The finishing style Lorenzo used is really nice, with solid pencils and a tight sheen! I especially like the subtle storytelling going on here: Superman, legs firm and spaced to shoulder length—and the one hand on the hip just does it. And Batman, arm folded suspiciously and his legs closer together...he could strike at any moment! Lorenzo really captures the essence of these heavyweights and that's awesome! Comics is only one part drawing and two parts storytelling. You're well on your way, Lorenzo, if not all ready for a great career in comics! Keep drawing and God bless!

Read more critiques from Ed McGuinness at **wizardworld.com**!



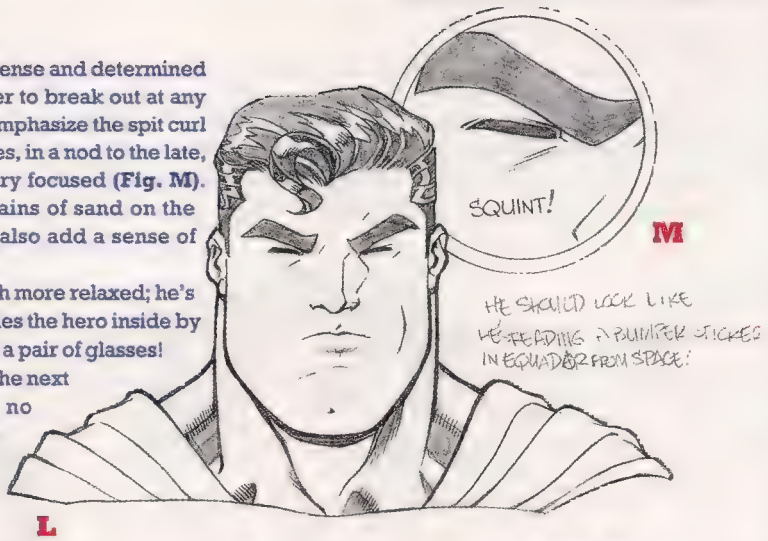
X-FACTORS

A few of Xavier's students have turned to the dark side over the years. Firestar and Warpath were Hellions, while Colossus came to believe in Magneto's vision of mutan-kind's future, joining his mutant terrorist team the Acolytes. (*Firestar #1, Uncanny X-Men #117, #304*)

KAL VS. CLARK

Kal **(Fig. L)** should always look more intense and determined than Clark, like he's ready for a disaster to break out at any moment. Not paranoid, but prepared. Emphasize the spit curl in his hair with an "S"-like curve. His eyes, in a nod to the late, great Joe Shuster, are squinted and very focused **(Fig. M)**. He should look like he's counting grains of sand on the beach...from the moon! Squinty eyes also add a sense of impenetrability (Thanks, Tim Sale).

Clark **(Fig. N)** should be looser, much more relaxed; he's probably about to tell a bad joke. He hides the hero inside by combing back the spit curl and donning a pair of glasses! I like to push the whole disguise gag to the next level. When Kal becomes Clark, he no longer squints **(Fig. O)**. Doing this also makes Clark look more vulnerable, like deer in the headlights. I also envision his eyes as ice blue to hint at his alien origins.

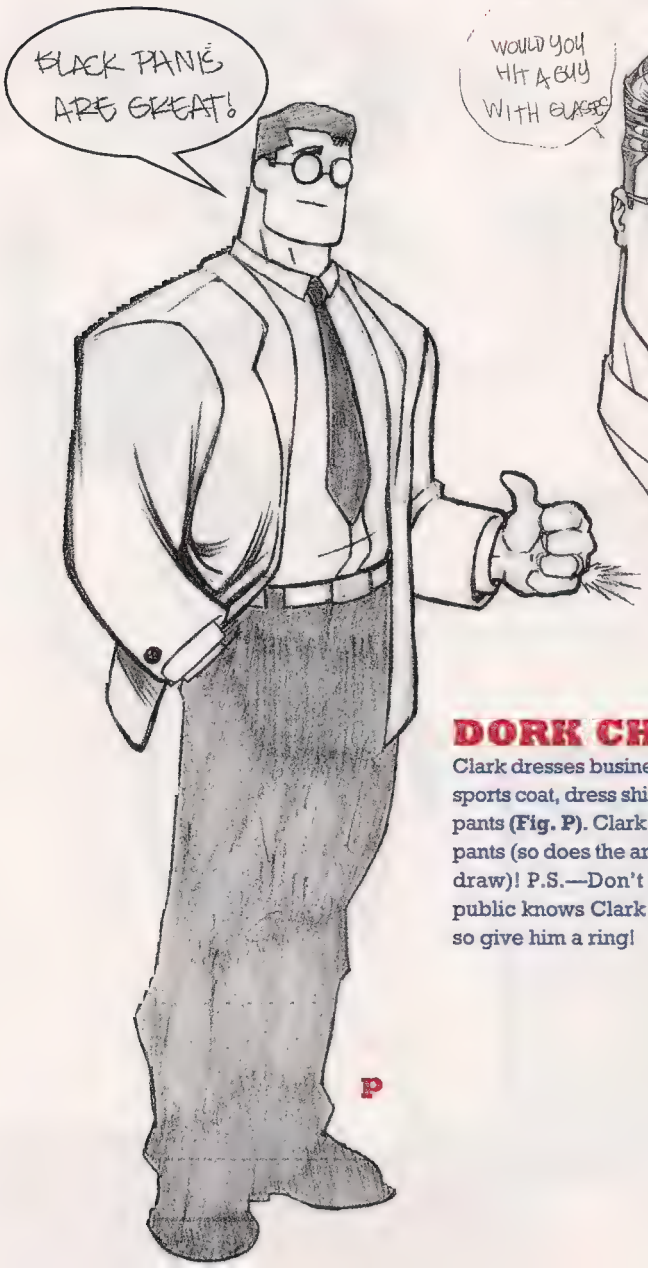


M

L

O

N



P

DORK CHIC

Clark dresses business casual—sports coat, dress shirt, tie, black pants **(Fig. P)**. Clark loves black pants (so does the artist...less to draw)! P.S.—Don't forget, the public knows Clark is married, so give him a ring!

FIRE AND ICE

Here are some last, quick examples to show some powers in use. When drawing his "Freeze Breath," try to avoid puffing out his cheeks—he looks more powerful without the Dizzy Gillespie shtick! Start the breath effect about an inch beyond Big Blue's mouth **(Fig. Q)**. The same basic rule applies to the heat vision: It starts about an inch from his eyes **(Fig. R)**. Try drawing white eyes so they can be colored red for a cool effect!

Q

R

S

UP, UP AND AWAY

Always try to keep Big Blue's actions dynamic! Follow bold action lines. Whatever he's doing, be it flying, fighting, punching, whatever, make it look Superman **(Fig. S)**!

Hope you enjoyed this little excursion as much as I did! Drawing should always be creative and inspiring. Keep in mind, these are only my ideas; don't be bashful, look at what's out there and see what others have done. Take a little from here, add a little from here and *voila!* You have your own version of Supes!! Keep drawing and God bless! (W)

Ed McGuinness' art can be seen flying high every month in the high-flying Superman *from DC Comics.*

Got any artists or topics you'd like to see covered here? Just e-mail us at: basictraining@wizardworld.com

X-FACTORS

Wolverine's survived some pretty crippling injuries over the years. In a single issue, he was dropped from a dozen stories up, impaled with a spear, then had his still-beating heart ripped outta his chest. He got better, though. (*Uncanny X-Men Annual* #11)

INTERPLAY ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS:

CONTEST

WIN GEKIDO VIDEO GAME STUFF!

PRIZES

GRAND PRIZE (1): One champion street brawler wins an awesome framed black-and-white sketch by Joe Madureira, a copy of the *Gekido* video game and a Gekido poster.

FIRST PRIZE (10): Ten first-rate rumblers win a copy of the *Gekido* video game and a Gekido poster.

HOW TO GRAB THE BOOTY:

Fill out the form below and send it in. We'll pick the lucky winners randomly.

© 2000 A.P.S TEAM INC. INFOGRAMES ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Fill this out, attach your entry and mail it off to:

"The Gekido Video Game" Contest
c/o Wizard Entertainment
P.O. Box 118
Congers, NY 10920-0118

DEADLINE IS AUGUST 31, 2000.

E.N.T.E.R. N.O.W.!!

The Gekido Video Game Contest Entry Form

CONTEST DEADLINE August 31, 2000!

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (with area code) _____ E-mail _____

DID YOU ATTACH YOUR ENTRY?

WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT

GEKIDO Interplay

BY GAMERS. FOR GAMERS.™

THE HACKER'S RULES

No purchase necessary. Contest is open to anyone except employees of Wizard Entertainment, Interplay Entertainment and their immediate families. Print your name, date of birth, address, city, state, zip, e-mail address and telephone number with area code on the official entry form or a 3-by-5-inch index card, and attach the form or card to your entry. Enter as many times as you like. Mail each entry separately to: "The Gekido Video Game" Contest, c/o Wizard Entertainment, P.O. Box 118, Congers, NY 10920-0118. No mechanical reproductions of completed forms are accepted, but you can photocopy the entry form before filling it out if you don't want to mess up your magazine. All entries and all rights relating thereto become property of Wizard Entertainment and none will be returned. All taxes (federal, state and local, if any) will be the responsibility of the prize winners. Prizes are awarded in the names of the contest winners and are not transferable. Offer void where prohibited, regulated or restricted by law in a manner inconsistent with the purposes and rules hereof. **All entries must be received at contest headquarters by AUGUST 31, 2000.** Wizard Entertainment is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries. Winners will be selected by random drawing by Wizard Entertainment. Odds of winning will be determined by the number of valid entries received prior to the closing date of the contest. If an entrant, having been declared as a winner, does not accept the prize or the prize or prize notification is undeliverable, another entry will be selected. In the event that a prize is not available or it becomes impossible for the sponsor to award the prize which has been designated, the sponsor retains the right to substitute a prize or product of equal value to the winner. Determination of whether a prize or product is of equal value is in the sole discretion of the sponsor. Winning entries will be selected on or about September 14, 2000.

For a list of winners, available after September 14, 2000, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: "The Gekido Video Game Contest" Winners List, c/o Wizard Entertainment, P.O. Box 118, Congers, NY 10920-0118.

TOY CHEST

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!

It's the crazy new sensation that's sweeping the nation—Dragon Ball Z!

DBZ has conquered comic shelves, TV (thanks to Toonami on the Cartoon Network), Burger King (with exclusive giveaways) and now the conquest continues on your toy shelves thanks to Irwin Toys.

Irwin has unveiled the next bunch of Dragon Ball figures—the first to be made specifically for the U.S. toy market—which will be released later this year. Be on the lookout for this set, which consists of Raditz, Nappa, Bulma, Garlic Junior, Master Roshi, Yajirobe, Frieza and Chiaoteu at toy stores across the country!

Dragon Ball is taking over the world, and nothing can halt it!

MASTER ROSHI

YAJIROBE WITH KORIN

GARLIC JR.

NAPPA

RADITZ

BLOCKS BY PAUL SCHRALD. DRAGON BALL Z COURTESY OF IRWIN TOYS.

ENOUGH Z-NUFF Dragon Ball's takin' over the globe. And we'd like to welcome them as our overlords.

BY TOM PALMER JR.

X-FACTORS

SOMETIMES X-MEN CHARACTER NAMES ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THE COMICS, BUT NOT FOR TOY SHELVES! TOY BIZ RENAMED HOLOCAUST "DARK NEMESIS" FOR THE X-MEN: NINJA FORCE LINE, WHILE ORPHANMAKER BECAME "THE PROTECTOR" IN THE GENERATION X SERIES.

Dynamic Duo...Giant Gundam... and Homer glows!

SCALES OF JUSTICE

Need proof that superhero toys are on the way back? Look no further than all of the neat DC action figures on the way this summer. From the gang at Hasbro Direct, look for an all-new assortment of JLA figures, made in that classic 5-inch Total Justice style. Look for brand-new Wonder Woman, Red Tornado and Atom figures, as well as new Superman and Batman. These guys are on the way this summer and will be available at your local KB toy store.

LEAGUE UP Check out these new JLA toys from Hasbro Direct.

LIKE SAND THROUGH THE HOUR GLASS...

It used to be that superhero comic fans were the only ones interested in toys. These days, even pasty-faced goths have a reason to like action figures! DC Direct will release a two-pack of Sandman figures this October, based on two distinctly different visions of Neil Gaiman's character. One figure of Morpheus is based on P. Craig Russel's *Arabian Nights* version, while the other is modeled after Yoshitaka Amano's recent *Dream Hunters* version.

NIGHTY-NIGHT Have pleasant dreams about this pair of Sandman figures.

JLA, SANDMAN PHOTOS COURTESY OF DC COMICS. SPEEDER BIKE SCOUT COURTESY OF HASBRO

FEELIN' THE FULL FORCE

The Star Wars toy flow is far from over, folks! On the way in early 2001 is a re-tooled version of the Imperial biker scout from "Return of the Jedi." Even though Hasbro made this dude way back in the '90s, this version is resculpted and even features a neat ankle holster to hold his li'l tiny gun.

The Star Wars Fan Club is shaping up to be a cool resource for Star Wars toy collectors. Aside from offering new releases, they've quite a few exclusive toys on the way, including a 12-inch set of Chancellor Valorum and a nifty blue Coruscant Guard from "Episode I." Look for this very special old-guy and dude with a brush on his head set this summer.

BIKER GANG Load up enough of these guys and take on the Hell's Angels.

TO THE BAT POLE All that's missing from this set is a Vincent Price Egghead!

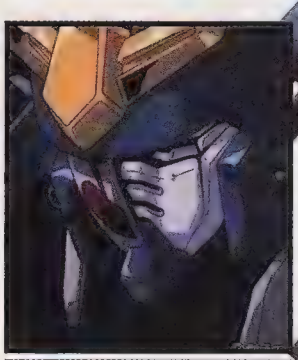
NA-NA-NA-NA BATMAN!

If li'l tiny superhero toys ain't your bag, you'll go ga-ga for this new Batman and Robin 9-inch set. Made in the classic 1950s-style, this two pack is up for grabs at HasbroCollectors.com right now, so surf on over and pick up a set.

Also on the way is the Batman Masterpiece Edition from Chronicle Books, a deluxe book set that includes a 9-inch Batman figure designed by none other than Alex Ross. Look for pics right here next month!

GUNDAM-MANIA!

A hit show on the Cartoon Network and a legion of rabid fans around the world have pushed Gundam into the spotlight recently. And now the action figures and model kits based on the show are finally hitting stores across the country. Bandai recently unveiled its new line of action figures—called Mobile Suits in Action—that will be released this summer. Look for Sandrock, Heavyarms, Deathscythe Hell, Wing Gundam, Deathscythe, Tallgeese, Epyon and Altron. Also, Bandai's got a bunch of snap-together model kits in both 1/100 and 1/144 scale set to hit stores. If you're looking for the full Gundam experience, you gotta pick one of these up and build one for yourself.



OVERKILL You could take over a small country with this Gundam toy.

SIMPSONS FALLOUT

Mmmm...nuclear meltdown. Looks like Homer Simpson's been in a little accident at the nuclear plant! Radioactive Homer Simpson, the first-ever exclusive from Playmates Toys' Simpsons line, features a special glow-in-the-dark feature. Charge up this figure in direct light and watch him shine! Like all of Playmates Toys' Simpsons figures, this Homer figure will talk when placed in special World of Springfield Intelli-Tronic playsets. Aside from a removable hood, Radioactive Homer also includes a keen accessory—that notorious glory hog known as the Inanimate Carbon Rod. To order yours, look for the coupon in a little magazine called *ToyFare* #37, on sale in July.

CHINA SYNDROME Radioactive Homer will set your Geiger counter a hummin'!

X-FACTORS SOME X-MEN TOYS PLANNED BUT NEVER PRODUCED INCLUDE MAGGOT, A JEAN GREY IN HER CLASSIC TAN-AND-BLUE TOGS, GENERATION X'S HUSK AND X-MEN 2099'S CONTROLLER 13. WILL THEY EVER COME OUT? DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH, SAY TOY BIZ REPS

BATMAN & ROBIN PHOTO COURTESY OF HASBRO. GUNDAM PHOTO COURTESY OF BANDAI. HOMER TOY PHOTO BY PAUL SCHRADE.

TOYBUZZBIN

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE TOY INDUSTRY

SPOOKY SIMPSONS! Woo hoo! This September, look for Playmates to offer up the Simpsons Treehouse of Horror Interactive Playset! Based on the annual Halloween episodes of "The Simpsons," this playset features four new figures (with spook-erific phrases from the show), set in the Springfield Cemetery. This Toys R Us exclusive includes Ned Flanders as the Devil, Homer as King Kong, Mr. Burns as Dracula and Bart as the Fly.

AVENGERS DIS-ASSEMBLE! Earth's Mightiest Heroes are getting sidelined. It seems Toy Biz has pulled the plug on the Avengers (Series 3) line, so fans won't be seeing the Avengers Quinjet, Deluxe Ultron or any of the remaining five figures: Ant-Man, Hawkeye, Thor, Remnant and Iron Man. The Biz is still planning on releasing the Bump 'N' Go figures and the larger Famous Covers-style ones at some point.

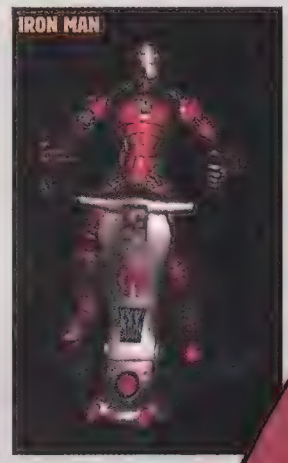
CLASSIC BATMAN! Batman goes retro this September with the Batman Masterpiece Edition from Chronicle Books. Based on sketches from Alex Ross of the Golden Age Dark Knight, this 9-inch Batman figure is based on the same design as the previous Target exclusive but features a new head, new costume, a Batarang and wire cape.

MAGDELENA TO THE MAC! Moore Action Collectibles has just announced it's planning a Magdelena figure (based on the popular Top Cow comic) for late 2000 as the 2nd figure in the Darkness line.

BONE-AFIDE TOYS! They're back! Yep, Jeff Smith's Bone toys, based on his popular Cartoon Books comic, are returning under the brand-new company Cartoon Toys. New figures (still in scale with the previous releases through ReSaurus Toys) will include Phoney Bone, the Hooded One, the evil Kingdok and Gran'ma Ben (complete with Smiley's cow suit to re-enact the Great Cow Race!). Look for 'em this November.

TAP INTO AMERICA! America's greatest hard-rockin' band is finally getting the toy treatment! Derek Smalls, Nigel Tufnel and David St. Hubbins (a.k.a. Spinal Tap) will become 12-inch action figures this October from Sideshow Toy.

YO JOE! Hasbro's set to release five new G.I. Joe two-packs later this year. These repainted 3 3/4-inch figures include Snake Eyes with Storm Shadow, Dusty with Law and Order, General Tomahawk with Dial-Tone, Cobra Commander with Chameleon, and Firefly with Undertow. ■ **THE *WIZARD* STAFF**



MR. BURNS AS DRACULA

IRON MAN PHOTO BY PAUL SCHRADE. MR. BURNS ™ & © TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX.

THE ONLY WILL STRONGER
THAN HIS—IS YOURS.

Willpower. The ability to forcibly take on any obstacle. And you'll encounter many obstacles in the **X-Men**® trading card game, where you take the characters from the movie into battles of your own creation. And this is just the start. Because with booster packs on their way, you'll have even more **X-Men** to deal with. Consider it an evolution of your game.

The **X-Men** trading card game.
It's your turn to seize control.

WILL BE RELEASED:
STARTER SET - JULY 2000
BOOSTERS - AUGUST 2000

X-MEN®
TRADING CARD GAME

MARVEL

X-Men ™ & © 2000 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.
Wizard of the Coast is a registered trademark of Wizards of the Coast, Inc. ©2000 Wizard.

stuff

COMIC BOOK MERCHANDISE YOU CAN BUY...

By the *Wizard* Staff

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COMICS RETAILER

Who among us doesn't like stuff? Whether it's Cyclops' Lens Cleaner, Colossus' Turtle Wax or Iceman's Cold-Paks, we're all suckers for comic-related merchandise. Each month, *Wizard* strives to show you the latest and super-coolest in comic book statues, posters, pins, magnets, shirts and other goodies. In short, if it's cool and it's stuff, you'll find it here—and you can only get it at your local comic book store.

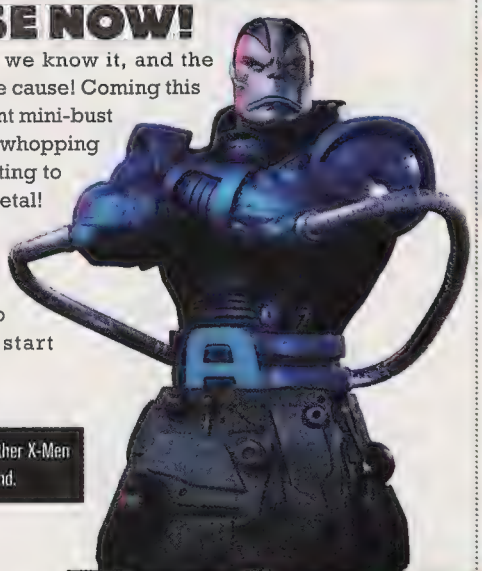
HIGH SOCIETY

DC Direct goes digging back to the Golden Age for its newest PVC set, a second series of JSA characters to follow the awesome first set. Series II includes Hawkman, Black Canary, Atom, Wonder Woman, Spectre, Mr. Terrific and Dr. Fate! Put this group together with the first JSA set and you've got the most formidable line-up in comics' history! Look for it in stores come November 22, and it'll only set you back $39.95!

JUSTICE FOR ALL The second JSA PVC set gives the first one a run for its money.

APOCALYPSE NOW!

It's the end of the world as we know it, and the ancient evil Apocalypse is the cause! Coming this September, this newest mutant mini-bust from Bowen Designs stands a whopping 6" tall, and the hoses connecting to the base are made of real metal! Wolverine's green with envy! The retail price has yet to be determined, but it should go between $40-$50. Pick up Apocalypse A.S.A.P. and start ruling mutantkind!



BUST A MOVE Line up your other X-Men busts against this evil mastermind.

BLACK CANARY

GREEN ARROW

SILVER AGE SWEETHEARTS

Black Canary and Green Arrow, the class couple of the JLA, get the Silver Age treatment from Alex Ross, who continues his series of Silver Age posters for DC Direct. Both Canary and GA stand 22" X 34" and cost $7.95. Add this pair to your JLA gallery come August 9, when these babies hit stores.

X-FACTORS ICEMAN'S POWERS ONCE SPIRALED OUT OF CONTROL WHEN HE CAME UNDER LOKI'S INFLUENCE. HE BRIEFLY HAD TO WEAR A POWER-DAMPENING BELT TO CONTAIN HIS POWERS BEFORE FINALLY LEARNING TO CONTROL THEM. (*THOR* #371-#376, *X-FACTOR* #23)

X-MEN STUFF!!!

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

GRAB SOME MUTANT BOOTY

There's another player in the mutant merchandise game. Creative Entertainment has whipped up a ton of cool "X-Men" movie-related products, everything from keychains to shot glasses to jackets, sporting all of your favorite movie mutants. Check out Creative's Website at **www.creationent.com** or call 1 (818) 409-0960 ext. 221, 227 or 228 to place an order. All this great stuff is available now, so get a move on!

X-MEN LEATHER JACKET $329.95
X-MEN STEINS $10.95 EACH
X-MEN RETRO JACKET $169.95
X-MEN KEYCHAINS $5.95 EACH
X-MEN SHOT GLASSES $5.95 EACH
X-MEN MUGS $9.95 EACH
X-MEN MARTINI GLASS $10.95
X-MEN SHOOTERS $6.95 EACH

stuff

HANG 'EM HIGH

You can throw out those cruddy local library magnets. Those important documents you got hanging on your fridge deserve the Sin City Magnet Set, coming August 30 from Dark Horse Comics. There's Nancy, Miho, Marv, Dwight, a Sin City logo and a Blam! sound effect. All for only eight bucks! Don't be a cheapskate.

ATTRACTIVE SET This Sin City magnet set should liven up your fridge.

Check your local stores for availability of all these funky-fresh products. Or ask your friendly neighborhood comic store to special order 'em for ya!

YO! Are you a company who sells stuff cool enough to make the grade here? Let us be the judges of that. Send any info and/or samples to:

Stuff for "Stuff"
c/o Wizard Entertainment
151 Wells Avenue
Congers, NY 10920-2064

DELIRIUM

MR. MXYZPTLK

DELIRIOUSLY CUTE PLUSHES

DC Direct unleashes its second wave of soft toys this November 22 with the release of Delirium and Mr. Mxyzptlk. Delirium is one of the Endless from *Sandman*, and she stands 7" tall, comes with hands that stick to other plushes and a plush fish. Mr. Mxyzptlk, Superman's fifth-dimensional nemesis, stands 7 1/4" and sports his trademark bowler. Both toys retail at $14.95 and come ready to squeeze.

X-FACTORS BEAST AND NIGHTCRAWLER DON'T HAVE BLUE SKIN. ONLY A FINE COAT OF BLUE FUR. ARCHANGEL, HOWEVER, DOES HAVE BLUE SKIN. (*OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE* #2, #9; *X-FACTOR* #24)

WARNER BROS. BONANZA!

Two fantastic DC collectibles are now available at your local Warner Bros. Studio Store. First up is the Shazam! Collector's plate, with painted art by Alex Ross! With one magic word and a bolt of thunder, Billy Batson transforms into Captain Marvel, the World's Mightiest Mortal! Pick up this 10" plate, limited to just 2,500 pieces, for $35.

Also, Bryan Hitch and Paul Neary team up to produce the JLA: Power Beyond Compare Print, showing the Big Seven about to spring into battle. The print, limited to just 250 pieces, comes signed by both creators, measures 17" X 25" and retails for $275!

HOMEBOUND HEROES Take DC's big guns home with you, courtesy of Ross and Hitch.

THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN PUSH HIM AROUND —IS YOU.

On the front lines of combat, can you control the most uncontrollable X-Man? Find out by tearing into the **X-Men**® trading card game, where you take the characters from the movie into battles of your own creation. Bark out commands. Make some edgy moves and choose which of your **X-Men** to send into warfare. It's sneak-fun.

The **X-Men** trading card game. It's your turn to seize control.

STRIKE DATE:
STARTER SET - JULY 2000
BOOSTERS - AUGUST 2000

X-MEN®
TRADING CARD GAME

MARVEL

X-Men: TM & © 2000 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.
Decipher and the Decipher logo are registered trademarks of Wizards of the Coast, Inc. © 2000 Wizards.

video game STUFF

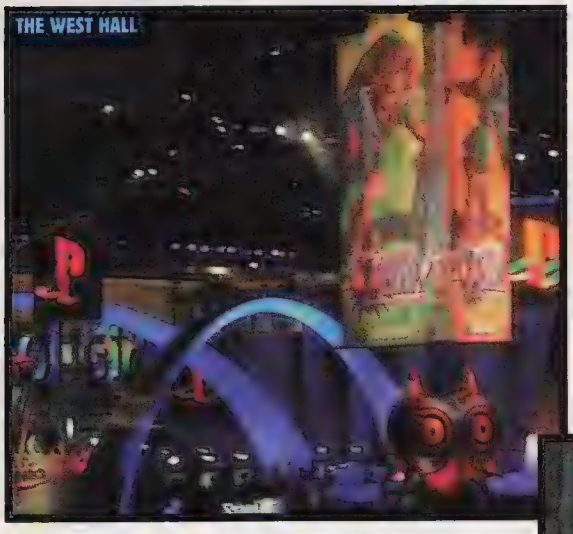
SPECIAL E3 REPORT!

THE E3 REPORT

The lowdown on the biggest video game expo in the United States

How can you sum up the E3 experience? Exhilarating. Exhausting. Erotic?

There were plenty of trends that manifested themselves at the show, including the proliferation of Role-Playing Games (RPGs), musical-based games and a slew of *Tomb Raider*-esque shooters and horror-survival games like *Resident Evil*. But what really stood out was how the video game companies used...shall we say software?...to move their hardware.



Plus, it didn't hurt that there were some pretty cool games and lots of big pushes at the show to boot. Here, for your reading pleasure, are the highlights of the E3 experience:

THE BIG THREE

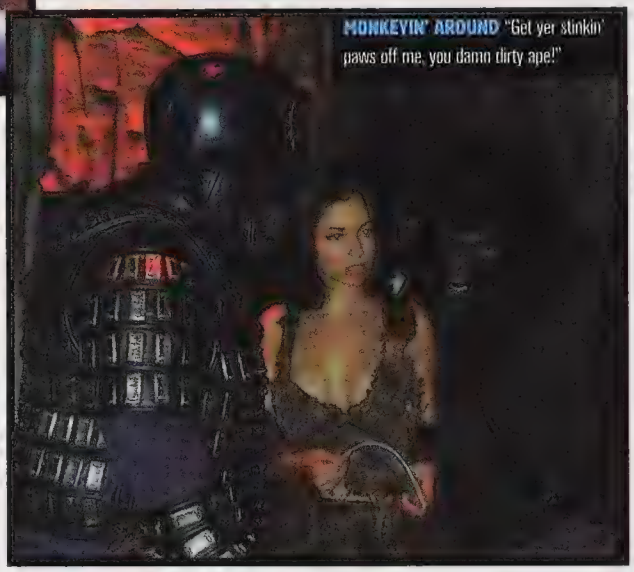
SONY—Sony's table was set for two—PlayStation2, that is. It was announced at the show that the PS2 will hit American stores on October 26, 2000 for a retail price of $299. Sure, everyone knows the scoop on the PS2—tons more memory, faster processing, Internet capability and DVD player. That's awesome, but Sony only showed off five first-party games. That's a ton of build up with little pay-off.

NINTENDO—Prepare for wave two of the Pokémon craze. Nintendo showed off two new Poké-games that are sure to be million-unit sellers when they hit shelves: *Pokémon Gold & Silver* for the Game Boy and Game Boy Color (October 16, 2000); and *Hey You, Pikachu!* (Nov. 6) for the N64. Then there were the other hot fall and holiday N64 titles—*The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask*, *Perfect Dark*, *Mickey's Speedway USA* and *Mario Tennis*—which had fans lined up five- and six-people deep waiting to play.

SEGA—Sega's big presence at E3 revolved around its online game venture, SegaNet. When SegaNet launches through Dreamcast and PCs come September 2000, there'll be 10 initial games released, but the most-anticipated title will be *Phantasy Star Online*. Players can challenge each other from anywhere in the country, or team up as many as four players at a time to take on this expansive RPG world.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?!?

Microsoft unveiled a working model of its X-Box console gaming system, even though its still 16 months away from release. There's plenty of power accompanying the X-Box, and the Microsoft demonstrators claimed it would blow the PS2 and Dreamcast away in terms of memory and processing. What really blew *us* away, however, was the lack of air conditioning in the demo room and the sour fragrance emanating from some of the foreign press members. It's called Speed Stick, folks; look into it! ■ **THE *WIZARD* STAFF**



X-FACTORS SUFFERING FROM HEART PROBLEMS, PROF. XAVIER LEFT EARTH AND ACTUALLY ASKED MAGNETO TO RUN HIS SCHOOL FOR HIM, AND TAKE CARE OF THE NEW MUTANTS. (UNCANNY X-MEN #200)

THE HIT PARADE

The 5 best games from E3

5. The Simpsons Wrestling (PlayStation)–All-out, frenzied wrestling action with all your favorite "Simpsons" characters. *Simpsons Wrestling* features two modes of play (Tournament and Grudge Match), 22 characters, 3-D gameplay and voices provided by the show's actors! **(Winter 2000)**

4. Final Fantasy IX & XI (PlayStation and Online)–Square showed 20 seconds of *FFIX* video, and thousands waited in line to check it out. This chapter has a whole new, more animated-fantastic look from artist Yoshitako Amano. And *FFXI*? Let's just say it'll be totally online, allowing players all over the world to team up on quests. **(*FFIX*—Late 2000)**

3. Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty (PlayStation 2)–Okay, there was no working demo of this game, but the video presentation had fans lining up by the thousands over the course of the show to check it out. This was easily one of the most talked-about games at the show. **(Late 2000)**

2. The Bouncer (Playstation 2)–As close as you can get to starring in a Hollywood action flick without sleeping with the director. Totally seamless action sequences enhance the thrill of fighting up to 10 enemies at once while dodging chairs, tables and other debris, as you are drawn into a web of kidnapping, murder and mystery. **(Late 2000)**

1. Shenmue (Dreamcast)–One of the deepest, most massive game undertakings ever. As the hero Ryo Hazuki, players must solve the mystery of Ryo's father's murder. But it won't be easy. There are thousands of rooms, over 300 interactive characters and numerous real-time environments where days and nights pass along with the changing of seasons. **(Winter 2000)**

■ THE *WIZARD* STAFF

MODELS OF EFFICIENCY

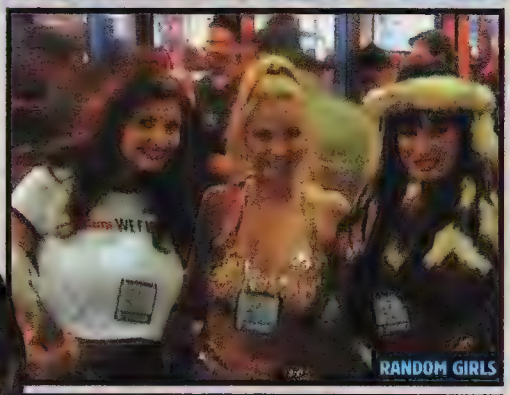
SEX SELLS

The best way to attract crowds to your booth at E3?

Show off a great product. But a great back-up to that strategy is a scantily-clad, really hot spokesmodel. For your viewing pleasure, here's a mini-gallery of the hottest models *Wizard* saw at the show.

T-SHIRT GIRL

PLANET OF THE APES MODELS


RANDOM GIRLS

GAME SHARK MODEL AND FREINDS (BELOW)

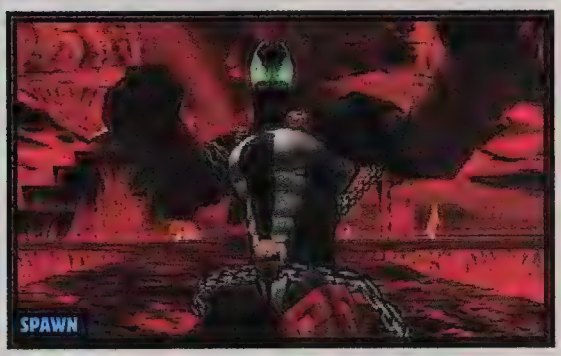
THE NEW LARA CROFT

THE COMICS ON YOUR CONSOLE

Behold the comic crossovers in all their glory!

• **Spawn** (Dreamcast)–Get ready for Todd McFarlane's cash cow to blow up your Dreamcast! This four-player action/adventure/shooter features Spawn and a host of his supporting characters blasting away at each other in this fully-rendered 3-D battle royale. (Late 2000)

• **Marvel Vs. Capcom 2** (Dreamcast)–Bigger and better than the original, MVC2 features more than 50 different playable characters, the most of any fighting game ever! (Fall/Winter 2000)



• **Blade** (PlayStation)–Enter the 3-D world of this urban vampire hunter. But you're not just after blood suckers; prepare to battle werewolves, monsters and the undead as well, using your awesome array of weapons and martial arts moves. (Fall 2000)

• **X-Men: Mutant Academy** (PlayStation)–Chose one of 10 different X-Men characters and prepare to clobber the other nine! Play as Wolverine, Cyclops, Magneto, Sabretooth just to name a few. (Summer 2000)

• **Spider-Man** (PlayStation)– As Spider-Man, you've got to save a kidnapped friend, avoid the cops, battle your archfoes and solve the missions that come up in order to finish the game. (Summer 2000)

• **Turok 3** (Nintendo 64)–The final N64 chapter in the Turok series! This series

is known for its weapons, and *T3*'s no different. Destroy all monsters using various guns, missles and more exotic weaponry like the Cerebral Bore and the Eviscirator. Those sound really painful. And fun! (Fall 2000)

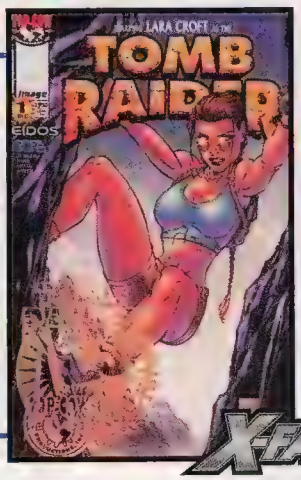
• **Danger Girl** (PlayStation)–An all-new Danger Girl gets introduced just for this title! Play as Abbey Chase, Sydney Savage or the new girl on the block in this third-person, over-the-shoulder shooter/adventure game. (Summer 2000)

• **Batman Overdrive** (PlayStation/PC)–Ever wanted to drive the Batmobile? Here's the next best thing: an interactive driving/adventure game where players hop behind the wheel of a host of Bat-vehicles, as well as the individual rides of Bat-villains such as the Joker, the Riddler, Scarecrow and a host of others. (October 2000) ■ **THE *WIZARD* STAFF**

COMIC SWAG

Video games and comics make for natural crossovers, so it's only natural that *Wizard* sought out some exclusive video game-based comics at E3. Check 'em out, and if you weren't at the show, check out eBay or some other auction site and try to get a copy.

TOMB RAIDER #1– Handed out by Eidos, it's the first issue of the *Tomb Raider* comic, written by Dan Jurgens and drawn by Andy Park, which comes with a giant, honkin' E3 Exclusive Foil Stamp on it. *Über*-babe Lara Croft heads off on a quest for the Medusa Mask.



FEAR EFFECT #1– Another Eidos give-away, this Exclusive Foil Stamped comic was written by Frank Mastromauro and David Wohl and penciled by David Boller. Three mercenaries hunt down monsters in a Hong Kong high rise.

VAGRANT STORY– A black and white preview comic distributed by Eruptor.com and Squaresoft, this book was written by John Nguyen and penciled by Clarence Lansang. It also features an awesome B&W pin-up by Top Cow superstar Michael Turner (*Fathom*)!

X-FACTORS

WOLVERINE'S CLAWS WERE ADDED WHEN ADAMANTIUM WAS BONDED TO HIS SKELETON, RIGHT? WRONG. AFTER MAGNETO SUCKED HIS METAL OUT, WOLVERINE DISCOVERED HIS CLAWS ARE ACTUALLY BONE EXTENSIONS OF HIS SKELETON. (*WOLVERINE* #75)

SPECIAL REPORT

SWING TIME!

Activision's 'Spider-Man' will have fans crawling up the walls

With a great character must come a great video game.

And that's just what Neversoft–the developer behind the mega-hit *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater*–hopes to do this summer to consoles everywhere. The company's putting Marvel Comics' most-recognizable icon smack in the middle of a web of action, adventure and mystery with its late Summer PlayStation release, *Spider-Man*.

Activision, the game's producer and owner of Neversoft, recently invited *Wizard* to their offices in Woodland Hills, Calif., to play a few rounds of *Spider-Man* and meet the design team.

Neversoft went to great pains to bring about every Spidey nuance for *Spider-Man*. Players can climb walls, stick to ceilings, spin webs, leap 30 feet in the air, punch out bad guys, lift automobiles and sense danger lurking around the corner. In other words, *Spider-Man* does whatever Spider-Man can. Without the bite from a radioactive spider.

"We wanted to make *Spider-Man* like a comic book you could step into," says Chad Findley, one of the designers on the game and a self-professed Spider-Man junkie. "It was important to us that we add as many touches from the comic as we could. We want everyone to just fall in love with Spidey."

That was no problem for the team of developers. Walk around the offices for a bit, and you'll invariably see stacks of Spider-Man comics, annuals, *Marvel Handbooks* and other reference materials laying around that the designers used to give Spidey his distinctive look for the game.

In the opening sequence, a training mission where you feel out all the different Spider-abilities, Spidey battles bad guys robbing the Bank of New York. After that, there's an intro movie where Spidey swings by the New York skyline and Four Freedoms Plaza–home to the Fantastic Four–is clearly visible in the background! That series sets the tone for a ton of other Marvel and Spidey comic references.

Look for cameos by the Black Cat and Daredevil, and battles against a myriad of Spider-foes, including Dr. Octopus, Lizard and the Scorpion, to name a few. And when Spidey dispatches a foe, he quips, "I make this look easy."

In one level, players battle the Rhino, who sports the classic gray suit with little eyes on the sides of his head. You beat him by goading him into smashing into walls, where his horn gets stuck. But Rhino turns out to be a sensitive thug when he begs Spidey to "Stop makin' fun of me!"

Neversoft's hard work is evident from first screen to last. *Spider-Man* never misses a beat, even in the way he stands, sits or swings. At one point, Spidey jumps on the shoulders of a bad guy and bashes his head in. When the writer noted how familiar that move looked, Findley replied, "We pulled that pose right out of a scene when Spidey fought the Juggernaut back in [*Amazing Spider-Man* #229–#230]!"

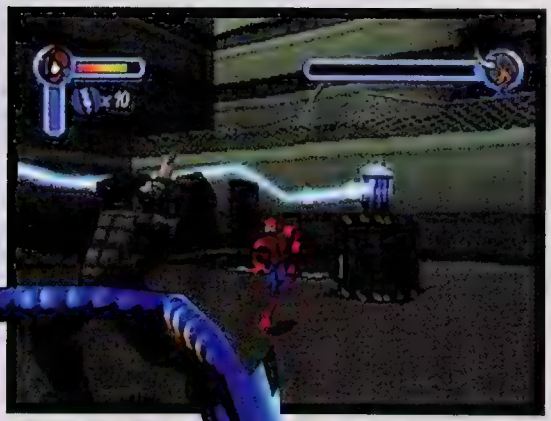
The Juggernaut? He's not gonna show up, is he?

"No, I can't tell you exactly which villains you'll see in the game," Findley says, "but fans will be pleasantly surprised at who shows up."

Carnage? Hobgoblin? Kingpin? Green Goblin?

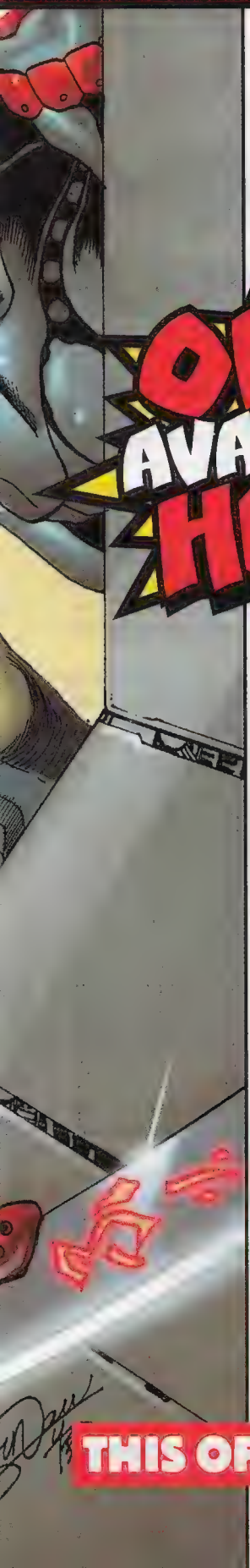
"You'll be surprised," says Findley.

Fair enough. Now bring on the Rhino again. We wanna hear him cry like a Nancy-boy! ■ **ANDY SERWIN**



VAMPI
1/2
ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE!
HARRIS COMICS
VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #1/2 OFFER



Inhabiting the shadows of a hostile, post-industrial slum, Vampi is considered an urban legend—the last of the vampires! Now the legendary predator becomes the prey in a deadly urban safari. The "Great White Hunter" lures the sexy vampire out of hiding and into the grasp of his cyborg storm troopers. But when a dangerous predator is cornered, who becomes the ultimate prey? Don't be one of the blood-sucking undead—buy this book! Once this offer expires, it is gone forever!

- **Cover by & Pencils by Kevin Lau**
- **Super-limited!**

Fill out the coupon!
Now! Don't delay!

THE BLOODY LAW

No reproductions of this coupon will be accepted. This coupon must be sent in the accompanying envelope. Yes, "By Kevin Lau" is actually part of the title. You may put additional coupons in the same envelope. Remit by check or money order only. Canadian orders remit $4 per copy, other foreign orders remit $6 per copy. All payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. Make all checks payable to Wizard Entertainment. Offer good only while supply lasts. Please allow eight to 12 weeks from date of expiration for delivery. Changes of address will not be forwarded unless Wizard Entertainment is notified in writing by September 22, 2000.

THIS OFFER EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 22, 2000

manga MANIA!

COOL JAPANESE COMIC AND ANIMATION NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW...

HUNGRY LIKE THE WOLF

Dark Horse to republish 'Lone Wolf and Cub,' possibly 'Akira'

This August, Dark Horse Comics brings Lone Wolf and Cub out of hibernation.

Kazou Koike's visceral epic about Samurai-turned-assassin Itto Ogami and his toddler son Daigoro on "the road to Hell" will be present for the first time, complete and uncut, to American audiences this summer in its original 4" x 6" format.

Originally published for American audiences by First Comics in 1987, *Lone Wolf and Cub* had a massive impact on the manga scene, influencing the styles of Frank Miller, Matt Wagner and countless others. However, with the demise of First Comics, readers on this side of the Pacific never got to finish the 7,000-page tale.

Now, over a decade since *Lone Wolf*'s finale, Dark Horse will unleash the first of 28 monthly trade paperbacks averaging 300 pages per issue. The title will get a new and revised translation by Dana Lewis, who also worked on the First release, while the late Goseki Kojima's stunning cinematic visuals receive the red carpet treatment with a new digital transfer. The series will also restore material, some of it sexual in nature, left out of First Comics' U.S. run. Frank Miller's First Comics covers, complete with his 1987-88 introductions, are slated to showcase the first 12 issues. Dark Horse is currently in talks to provide original covers from hot artists for the rest of the series.

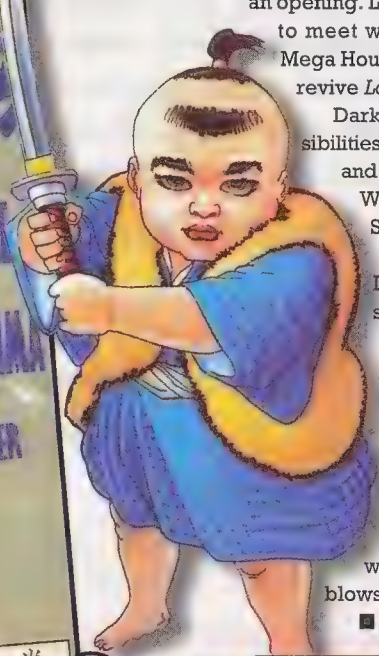
Lone Wolf and Cub, or *The Baby Cart Assassin* (*Kozure Okami* in Japan), had been a personal favorite of DH Publisher Mike Richardson. "This is classic material and contains some of the finest comics ever created," Richardson says. Richardson had followed the series since its publication in Japan's *Action Comics* and even tried to secure the American publication rights to the title when launching Dark Horse, but got beaten to the punch by First Comics. Now out of print for several years, Richardson saw an opening. Last January, he flew to Japan to meet with Koike's company and Mega House and worked out a deal to revive *Lone Wolf* in the U.S.

Dark Horse also hints at the possibilities of an all-new spin-off series, and is scheduled to release Lone Wolf and Cub action figures in September.

In addition to *Lone Wolf*, Dark Horse is currently pursuing the rights to publish another epic, Katsuhiro Otomo's *Akira*. Set in Japan post-World War III, *Akira*, considered by some to be the finest manga tale ever, tells the story of a group of super-powerful psychics that battle each other for world supremecy. And Japan blows up a whole bunch o' times.

■ ROBERT K. ELDER

MILLER LITE? Forget it! His *Lone Wolf* covers are bloody good fun!
LONE WOLF and CUB
by KAZUO KOIKE and GOSEKI KOJIMA
introduction by FRANK MILLER



X-FACTORS

DESPITE HER ASIAN APPEARANCE, PSYLOCKE USED TO BE BRITISH. BUT HER MIND WAS SWITCHED WITH THAT OF AN ASIAN ASSASSIN NAMED REVANCHE, WHO WAS DYING FROM THE LEGACY VIRUS. (*UNCANNY X-MEN* #257)

Pioneer

AMAZING NURSE
NANAKO

Mad Scientists!
International Intrigue!
- and a Bouncy Personality!

Who could ask for more?!

Volume 1 of 3 of this medical comedy love-action video coming this July to VHS and DVD.

VHS
English Dubbed -$24.98
English Subtitled - $24.98
Dual Langage DVD - $29.98

SUGGESTED AGE 16 UP

COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE
888-266-4226

Virgin MEGASTORE
MUSIC · MOVIES · MULTIMEDIA · MORE

KINOKUNIYA BOOKSTORES

SUNCOAST MOTION PICTURE COMPANY
WE KNOW MOVIES

TOWER RECORDS

For More Information
Call 1.800.421.1621
Or See Our Website At:
www.pioneeranimation.com

MANIA!

TOONAMI SITE SPLASH!

Surfing in a Toonami just got safer.

As if its Toonami anime block wasn't enough, Cartoon Network has unleashed **www.Toonami.com**, and fans are flocking to the site to catch the wave. With anime such an important part of Cartoon Network's line-up, the channel has added a Web page dedicated to its anime properties, with "Sailor Moon," "Dragon Ball Z," and "Gundam Wing" featured as the main stars, and new shows like "Tenchi Muyo" to be added as they arrive on the network.

Fans can log on and do anything from play arcade games with their favorite anime characters to posting their own art on the Website. "We've beefed up the content on the site recently, and it's gone crazy," a spokesperson from Cartoon Network said.

The games have been the most popular feature thus far, with "Sailor Moon Frenzy" the current game of choice. Visitors do their best to free Sailor Moon's classmates who are trapped in robot bodies. But the site has much more to offer to fans than just games. Download Toonami MP3s, desktop pictures and icons, find out answers to any Toonami-related questions, check out the new interactive comic each week, or just find out the schedule of your favorite show.

For Cartoon Network viewers still unfamiliar with the network's anime offerings, this site can help. Each show has a story summary along with a teaser video clip.

The emphasis on anime with Cartoon Network reaches farther than just the Web. This month, the network extends its Toonami block from two to three hours long on weekdays. "We're going to continue to try and get the best animation from all over the world. Anime has a loyal legion of fans, and we're going to do our best to please them," said the spokesperson. ■ **SETH JONES**

HOT IMPORTS

CAN'T MISS MANGA & ANIME

MANGA

CARDCAPTOR SAKURA #8 (Tokyopop.com) Sakura meets a kindred spirit in new student Li, who also chases Clow Cards. But is Li a friend or foe? **$2.95**

CHIRALITY BOOK FOUR (CPM Manga) The final installment of Satoshi Urushihara's sci-fi classic pits the human resistance against their android oppressors in final combat. **$15.95**

EVIL EYES VOLUME 1 GN (Komics, Inc.) Society has collapsed and anarchy rules and the only law comes from wild bounty hunters like Blane. But when he stumbles into a giant conspiracy, can he handle the bounty on that? **$9.85**

GUNDAM WING #6 (Tokyopop.com) OZ meets to talk truce with the colonists, but the rebels attack the conference. And OZ has devious plans for Relena. **$2.95**

NO NEED FOR TENCHI VOL. 8: CHEF OF IRON TP (Viz) A series of Tenchi tales based on the hit anime series. **$15.95**

OH MY GODDESS! PART IX #1: PRETTY IN SCARLET (Dark Horse) Skuld and her friend Belldandy get into some big trouble with guardian angels. **$3.50**

POKÉMON THE MOVIE 2000 –REVELATION: LUGIA #1 (Viz) Based on the movie, Ash, Misty and Tracey are in the tropics when they run into the legendary Lugia, which has power over the sea. **$3.95**

VIDEO GIRL AI VOL. 2: MIX DOWN TP (Viz) Yota gets unwanted dating tips from a young girl who pops out of a strange videotape he rents. Wacky teenage antics ensue. **$15.95**

ANIME

3 X 3 EYES: IMMORTALS (Pioneer) This two-tape set tells the whole story behind Yakumo's battle against a secret world of monsters and magic. Dubbed–**$34.98**; Subtitled–**$34.98**

BUBBLEGUM CRISIS VOL. 6: MINDBENDER (ADV Films) The Knight Sabers are falling apart as they look for a hidden laboratory, and what's the real reason the Sabers were formed? Dubbed–**$19.98**; Subtitled–**$29.95**

JUBEI-CHAN: VOL. 1: A LEGEND REBORN (Pioneer) A young girl is the modern descendent of Japan's greatest swordsman. But she doesn't want the gift nor the assassins that come with it. Dubbed VHS–**$19.98**; DVD–**$29.98**

MAISON IKKOKU, VOL. 21: HOT SPRINGS HOLIDAY Two episodes! The first has Kyoko opening an *onsen* (hot spring resort), but her privacy's about to get interrupted. In the second, Godai gets hurt on the job and Kyoko gets in hot water!

OUTLAW STAR VOL. 13 (Pioneer) The story ends here! The two pirate groups race Gene and our heroes to the secret of the layline's power. **$24.98**

PHOTON: ENEMY PAWNS (U.S. Manga Corps) Cook-offs to the death in this culinary tale. From the team that brought you "Tenchi Muyo!" Dubbed–**$19.99**; Subtitled–**$24.99**

RURONI KENSHIN (Anime Works) Vol. 1 and 2 begin the saga of a young girl and a master samurai in feudal Japan, battling for honor and reputation. Dubbed, Subtitled–**$24.95**; DVD–**$29.95**

X-FACTORS

WOLVERINE ACTUALLY KILLED THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE WHEN MARIKO YASHIDA WAS FATALLY POISONED. SHE BEGGED LOGAN TO PUT HER OUT OF HER MISERY. SO HE DID. SNIKT! (*WOLVERINE* #57)

The Fight For Freedom has Begun!

The space colonies have grown tired of the oppressive rule by Earth Federation government. Resistance forces in the colonies have created special Mobile Suits called Gundams in order to battle the army of the Federation. Five young pilots are selected to sneak these Gundams down to Earth to wage a guerrilla battle. Can Heero, Relena, and the other Gundam pilots band together to end the Earth government's tyrannical rule or does Treize, the mysterious leader of OZ have other plans?

As seen on CARTOON NETWORK TOONAMI

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM W WING™

Gundam Wing © Sotsu A... cy • Sunrise • ANB

Mobile Suit Gundam Wing
Shooting Stars
VHS 1
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Contains Episodes 1-4
SRP: $14.98
Available Now!

Mobile Suit Gundam Wing
DVD Operation 1
BILINGUAL
Contains Episodes 1-5
SRP: $24.98
DOLBY DIGITAL
DVD VIDEO
Available Now!

Mobile Suit Gundam Wing
Dark Shadows
VHS 2
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Contains Episodes 5-7
SRP: $14.98
July 18, 2000

Mobile Suit Gundam Wing
DVD Operation 2
BILINGUAL
Contains Episodes 6-10
SRP: $24.98
DOLBY DIGITAL
DVD VIDEO
July 18, 2000

Mobile Suit Gundam Wing
The Cold Battlefield
VHS 3
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Contains Episodes 8-10
SRP: $14.98
July 18, 2000

Available at these fine stores:

samgoody · SUNCOAST MOTION PICTURE COMPANY · Virgin MEGASTORE · TOWER RECORDS · MEDIA PLAY Your Entertainment Superstore · KINOKUNIYA BOOKSTORES

Distributed by: Pioneer

For More Information:
http://www.bandai-ent.com
or call 1-877-77-ANIME

Bandai Entertainment
PO Box 6054
Cypress, CA 90630
E-mail: support@bandai-ent.com

Produced by: BANDAI entertainment

manga MANIA!

JACKED IN Spend your free time playing digitized giant robots.

GAMES OF GUNDAM

Forget the universe—Gundam's about to conquer your gaming consoles.

At the recent Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles (**see Video Stuff on page 92 for full report**), Bandai showcased not one but *two* different Gundam titles, including an as-yet-untitled Mobile Suit Gundam game for the PlayStation 2!

In the Mobile Suit game, players will have to give instructions to their various Gundam—such as Gun Cannon, Gun Tank and G Armor—to have the suits carry out the actions onscreen while battling other Gundams. It's a tactical strategy game that includes battlefield scenes fully rendered with animation on par with CG movies. And thanks to the PS2's enhanced memory and processor, look for huge battle scenes with simultaneous and multiple enemies.

But before that title hits, take flight with *Gundam Wing: The Battle Master*, a two-player fighting game coming for the PlayStation scheduled for release in February 2001. Choose from five of your favorite Gundams from "Gundam Wing" to do battle with a variety of Mobile Suits set on turning you into so much scrap metal.

Bet that's gotta hurt! ■ **THE *WIZARD* STAFF**

ANIMEBUZZBOX

JAPANESE RUMOR MILL

DRAGON DOINGS Viz is set to release the first collection of Akira Toriyama's Dragon Ball stories. Fans of the "Dragon Ball Z" show on the Cartoon Network can go back in time with this collection which tells the origins of Goku and Bulma as they step out in a quest for the elusive Dragon Balls.

EXPLOSIONS AT GROUND ZERO Speaking of Viz, they're also releasing an all-new four-issue Gundam mini-series called *Gundam Wing: Ground Zero*. And this is no anime adaptation; it's an original Gundam tale by Reku Fuyunagi.

LION'S DEN Trimark Entertainment has entered a distributing deal with World Event Productions to get the home video rights for 12 episodes of the current "Voltron" CG series as well as the distributing rights to all 124 episodes of the original '80s American "Voltron" show. Trimark plans to focus on the CG show and release just a few of the '80s episodes this winter to gauge fan response. ■ **THE *WIZARD* STAFF**

ADV IMPORTS 'GASARAKI' TO U.S.

Can't get enough giant mecha anime?

Fear not, for August sees the first American release of "Gasaraki," a new series from ADV Films, the people who brought "Neon Genesis Evangelion" to the U.S.

Aimed at fans of both "Evangelion" and Cartoon Network's hot property "Gundam Wing," "Gasaraki" tells the tale of a near-future, sci-fi society centering around battle mechs in a conflict with a hostile nation, and covert tests of what seems to be psychic warfare—sort of like "Gundam" meets "X-Files." The young hero of the series, Yoshiro, is the youngest male member of the Gowa family, owners and directors of a large defense contractor. Chosen as a guinea pig for bizarre military experiments, Yoshiro begins to have visions of a young woman in a similar situation and of course sets out to save her.

The mech designs look cool, and very militaristic, even tank-like, while the animation and dubbing are also top-notch. The 24+ episode series will be released four episodes to a tape on a quarterly basis, and plans include a possible DVD release as well.

"Gasaraki" has the definite potential to rival and even surpass its competitors in the growing anime sub-genre of giant robot/mech combat. Demand for the series has been high, judging by the large volume of e-mails ADV received from fans.

The people have spoken again: "Bring on the E-bots!"

■ **JIM LAFAYETTE**

RAK-N-ROLL "Gasaraki" invades U.S. shores for the first time.

X-FACTORS WHILE POWERLESS, STORM WAS GRANTED THE POWER OF THOR, GIVEN AN ORU HAMMER AND NEW WEATHER POWERS BY LOKI. IT WAS ALL JUST ANOTHER ONE OF LOKI'S ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW AND RULE ASGARD. (*UNCANNY X-MEN ANNUAL* #9)

MANGA VIDEO SUMMER X-PLOSION!!!

Manga Entertainment proudly presents the VHS release of the smash Anime' supernatural thriller

X

★★★★★ -GAMER'S REPUBLIC

"FANTASTIC" -PROTOCULTURE ADDICTS

"The end of the world never looked so good... breathtakingly beautiful" -ANIMEXPRESS

At the edge of the millennial the concluding battle for humanity's future is staged. Kamui Shirou's destiny has been decided as he returns to Tokyo to face his ultimate challenge. The Dragons of Heaven must stand against the Dragons of Earth, who embrace the devastation of the planet to bring about its purification. Now Kamui must decide which side to fight for to as the end of the world draws near.

"X" the animated feature film is based on the manga series by CLAMP (Magic Knights Rayearth, Tokyo Babylon) creating a visual mix of stylish gothic flair with exhilarating supernatural action sequences.

VHS • Hi Fi Stereo • English Dub.....**$19.95 SRP**

IN STORES JULY 25TH R

ALSO NEW FROM MANGA VIDEO ON DVD:

FROM DIRECTOR MAMORU OSHII
(Ghost In The Shell)

PATLABOR 1 MOBILE POLICE.....$29.95 SRP

The year is 1999 and Tokyo's Mobile Police have a new weapon in the war on crime: advanced robots called Labors which are used to combat the criminals who would use the new technology for illegal means. The first in a highly acclaimed anime series, PATLABOR 1 is a science fiction police drama set against a tale of high-tech revenge.

DVD VIDEO

HARD-HITTING ACTION ANIME!

SWORD FOR TRUTH.....$24.95 SRP

Bearing his distinctive "Scythes of Death" crest, Shuranosuke Sakaki the master swordsman walks alone and unafraid, cutting a path through those who stand in his way,in a desperate attempt to save a Princess. Sword for Truth is anime that will blow you away!

IN STORES JULY 25TH

MANGA VIDEO

Available at
SUNCOAST MOTION PICTURE COMPANY
We Know Movies
and fine movie outlets everywhere

PERFECT BLUE DVD FANS!
VISIT WWW.MIMASROOM.COM
WIN COOL PRIZES!

WWW.MANGA.COM

STOP BY THE MANGA BOOTH AT THIS SUMMERS ANIME AND COMIC BOOK CONVENTIONS!

©2000 Manga Entertainment Inc. A Palm Pictures Company, LLC

the most X-men comics and

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO 2000

AUGUST 4-6 2000

JUST ADDED!

GARTH ENNIS
PUNISHER

KEVIN SMITH
DAREDEVIL

ROSEMONT CONVENTION CENTER

MEET HUNDREDS OF STARS FROM THE WORLDS OF ENTERTAINMENT, COMICS, SCI-FI AND GAMING IN OUR HUGE EXHIBIT HALL CRAMMED WITH *AMAZING STUFF!*

MARVEL COMICS

SEAN CHEN
DAN JURGENS
ANDY KUBERT
JAE LEE
DAVID MACK
JOE QUESADA
JOHN ROMITA JR.

TICKETS		
ADULT	1 DAY $20	3 DAY $40
CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER GET IN	FREE!	

CALL NOW FOR ADVANCE TICKETS

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO ™ & © 2000 WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT. PUNISHER ™ & © 2000 MARVEL CHARACTERS. KEVIN SMITH PHOTO BY PAUL SCHRAUB. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. GUEST LIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

movie stars ever assembled!

EXCLUSIVE UNCANNY X-MEN #385 VARIANT

RAY PARK
X-MEN THE MOVIE

TYLER MANE
X-MEN THE MOVIE

LEINIL YU
X-MEN

CHRIS CLAREMONT
UNCANNY X-MEN

ADAM KUBERT
UNCANNY X-MEN

Payment must be included with all orders. Send check or money order payable to Entertainment Conventions, or pay by credit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Credit card orders must include the card holder's name, the complete card number and expiration date. With payment, please send your name, address, and the specific days you will be attending to: Wizard World Chicago, P.O. Box 656, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.

Tickets are sent via first-class mail for all orders received by July 21, 2000. All orders received after that date will be held for pickup at the door. All orders received after July 28, 2000 will not be processed and returned to sender.

For travel and hotel information, call Tzell Travel at 800-865-9038 ext. 666.

FREE Exclusive *Rising Stars* #1/2 Wizard World Edition and early admission (on Sat. and Sun.) WITH ALL ADVANCE TICKET ORDERS!

This exclusive comic book is written by J. Michael Straczynski and features an all-new limited-edition cover and art by Christian Zanier.

1-800-690-1669 AND GET IN EARLY

WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

www.wizardworld.com

KEVIN SMITH PHOTO BY PAUL SCHRALOB, RAY PARK, TYLER MANE PHOTOS BY NELS ISRAELSON © 2000 20TH CENTURY FOX. GUEST LIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

PICKS

THE MUST-READ COMICS SHIPPING IN JULY

SPOTLIGHT ON...

OGDEN'S "TAB" CIGARETTES IN PENNY PACKETS CONTAINING 5

THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

ALAN MOORE
KEVIN O'NEILL

AMERICA'S BEST COMICS

VOL. 1 No 6 (OF 6) $2.95/$4.50 CAN. AUGUST

"THROUGH TRUSTING IN A PORTLY GENT - OUR CHUMS HAVE AN EMBARRASSMENT"

LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN #6 (OF 6)

WILDSTORM/DC The Justice League's got nothin' on these guys—where else could you read about a "rip-roaring, Victorian, swashbuckling finale high above London?" asketh writer Alan Moore. "It's a fairly simple story, even if action-packed," Moore continues. "It resolves all the stuff having to do with the doctor, and with Professor Moriarty, and the anti-gravity element that is at the core of all this back and forth." Jolly good show! By Moore and Kevin O'Neill. **$2.95** (shipping July 26)

AUTHORITY #17

WILDSTORM/DC Hmmm...Either some deity got up on the wrong side of the bed, or we're having a heck of a bad spell. Tidal waves, insect invasions, lack of good pie: Some major catastrophes are hitting our planet. Can the Authority find out what the dilly-o is in time? By Mark Millar and Chris Weston. **$2.50** (shipping July 26)

AVENGERS #32

MARVEL It's secret-busting time, and writer Kurt Busiek is leaving nothing to the imagination. "People who've been wondering for some time why dead Madame Masques keep showing up, and what's going on with Benedict and the gold coin, and all that stuff with the abduction of Masque at the end of *Avengers* (Vol. 1), well, they'll get their answers here," he promises. Good deal. By Busiek, George Pérez and Al Vey. **$2.25** (July 26)

BATMAN BOOKS

DC COMICS Sixty years without On*Star, and now he can't drive without it? Sure. In *Detective Comics* #748 (July 12), a bomber terrorizes Gotham, and tensions mount between Gothamites and those who deserted the dump during No Man's Land. And in *Batman/Huntress: Cry for Blood* #4 (of 6, July 12), Helena's origin continues to be revealed. Both books written by Greg Rucka—what are you waiting for? **$2.50** each

BATMAN: DARK VICTORY #10 (OF 13)

DC COMICS Two-Face continues to elude Batman (Oh yeah, he blends right in), and Mr. Freeze makes an appearance. Meanwhile, Dick Grayson has something he'd like to share with everyone. Oh, and there's still a serial killer loose. Still. By Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale. **$2.95** (July 19)

BIRDS OF PREY #21

DC COMICS It's the big, rip-roaring finale to the "Hunt for Oracle" saga. Get some chips and dig in! "The big story here is that the girls finally meet face-to-face," writer Chuck Dixon says, referring to Black Canary and Oracle. "The end of this story is just the beginning of another." Closure? Who needs it? By Dixon and Butch Guice. **$2.50** (July 19)

X-FACTORS

AS A KID, SCOTT SUMMERS WAS THROWN FROM A BURNING PLANE AND SUFFERED A HEAD INJURY, DAMAGING THE BRAIN CENTER THAT WOULD HAVE ULTIMATELY ALLOWED HIM TO CONTROL HIS OPTIC BLASTS. (*THE MARVEL SAGA* #4)

CAPTAIN MARVEL #9

MARVEL Captain Marvel teaming up with Silver Surfer and the Super-Skrull? God, there hasn't been a collection of egos this large since the Eagles got back together. It's all for a good cause, though: If they don't, the Hyssta threaten to turn our heroes into slimy reptiles. By Peter David, Chriscross and Anibal Rodriguez. **$2.50** (July 19)

COUNTER-X BOOKS

MARVEL Whoo! Whole lotta Warren Ellis writin' going on. In *Generation X* #67 (July 12), we find out what really happened when the Westchester Academy closed down, and what dirty secrets Adrienne Frost is hiding. Over in *X-Man* #67 (July 19), Nate Gray's driving ambition is revealed. And in *X-Force* #106 (July 26), good ol' Pete Wisdom teaches the team how to kick ass. By Ellis and a bunch of pencil jockeys. **$2.25** each

DAREDEVIL #16

MARVEL Talk about a hot story: *Bugle* reporter Ben Urich has been tapped to write Wilson Fisk's sordid tale, from his ill-gained fortune right down to his man-breasts. Seems that Ben is more concerned about a certain little boy, though, and how he figures into things. By Brian Michael Bendis and David Mack. **$2.99** (July 12)

HELLBLAZER #152

VERTIGO/DC Wherever John Constantine goes, so goes trouble. "John meets a couple of good old boys from his past, the Fermin brothers, and they're involved in some very shady dealings," says writer Brian Azzarello. And what else can we expect? "In this issue? John drinks a beer. He smokes in it, too." Okay, forget we asked. By Azzarello and Marcelo Frusin. **MR. $2.50** (July 26)

INCREDIBLE HULK #18

MARVEL *Arrrg!* Hulk not feel too good. Maybe Hulk eat too much peanut butter smidgens. As the big goof falls ill this ish,

newreleases

FIRST TIME OUT

AVATAARS: COVENANT OF THE SHIELD #1 (OF 3) **(Marvel)** Trippy faux-Avengers story, with knights and magic and stuff. **$2.99** (shipping July 26)

AVENGERS INFINITY #1 (OF 4) **(Marvel)** Earth's Mightiest–Thor, Photon, Quasar, Moondragon and Tigra–meet the Infinites. **$2.99** (July 12)

BATMAN: OUTLAWS #1 (OF 3) **(DC Comics)** The Feds wage war on Gotham's do-gooders. **$4.95** (July 5)

BEFORE THE FANTASTIC 4: REED RICHARDS #1 (OF 3) **(Marvel)** Indiana Jones-wannabe Reed goes globetrotting, courtesy of writer Peter David. **$2.99** (July 26)

BUTCHER KNIGHT #1 **(Top Cow/Image)** Dwayne Turner pencils this new series about a monster who's been around for hundreds of years. **MR. $2.50** (late July)

DARK HORSE MAVERICK 2000 **(Dark Horse)** Anthology featuring DH luminaries Frank Miller, Stan Sakai, Paul Chadwick and more. **MR. $3.95** (July 19)

DARKCHYLDE/WITCHBLADE #1 **(Top Cow/Image)** The "Hormonal Overload" saga begins here. **$2.50** (late July)

DC TWO THOUSAND #1 (OF 2) **(DC Comics)** In this *DC One Million* sequel, the JLA travels back in time to meet the original JSA. **$6.95** (July 12)

HELLBLAZER SPECIAL: BAD BLOOD #1 (OF 4) **(Vertigo/DC)** An aging John Constantine wants to crown the heir to the British throne. **MR. $2.95** (July 12)

HELLCAT #1 (OF 3) **(Marvel)** Patsy Walker, back from the dead, kicks butt and takes names. **$2.99** (July 5)

LEGEND OF THE HAWKMAN #1 (OF 3) **(DC Comics)** He's back! He's back! No, wait–this mini takes place in the past. Shoot. **$4.95** (July 19)

THE MESSENGER #1 **(Image)** A mind reader discovers his powers aren't always accurate. **$5.95** (late July)

ONI PRESS SUMMER VACATION SUPERCOLOR FUN SPECIAL **(Oni Press)** Tons o' fun from Greg Rucka, Judd Winick, Paul Dini, and other notables. **MR. $5.95** (late July)

ROBIN 80-PAGE GIANT #1 **(DC Comics)** Robin's old man gets remarried. Peaceful wedding? Sure. **$5.95** (July 26)

SKINNERS #1 **(Image)** Computer-illustrated book, with Jacob's Gate fighting off evil ruler Phen. **$2.95** (late July)

SPACE CIRCUS #1 (OF 4) **(Dark Horse)** More Sergio Aragonés fun, as a kid joins a...well, a space circus. **$2.95** (July 12)

STAR TREK: VOYAGER–AVALON RISING **(WildStorm/DC)** Wacked-out story with Captain Janeway and Co. in a living fairy tale. **$5.95** (July 12)

SUPERMAN: LAST SON OF EARTH #1 (OF 2) **(DC Comics)** A young infant is rocketed from a dying planet to the world where he will be its greatest hero...Krypton? **$5.95** (July 19)

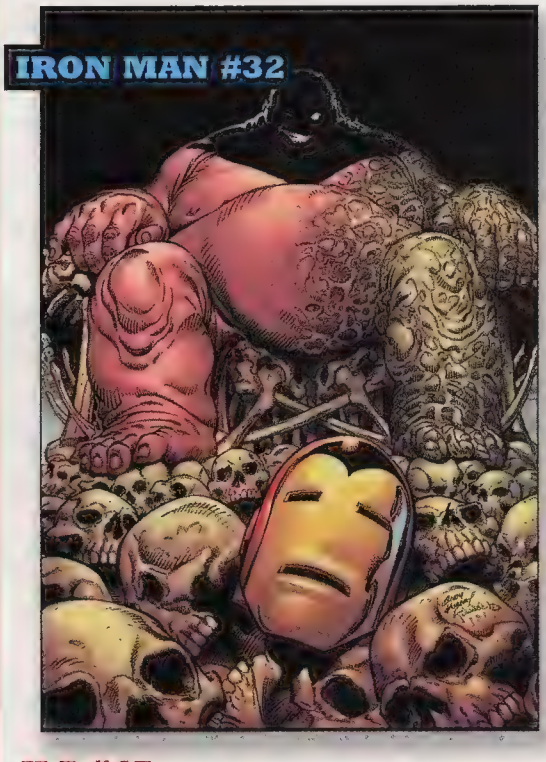
TITANS ANNUAL #1 **(DC Comics)** The Titans combat Bushido in Japan. **$3.50** (July 5)

VAMPI #1 **(Harris Comics)** Vampirella for the new millennium. Rowwrr! *reg. cover*–**$2.95**, *foil cover*–**$9.95** (late July)

the only way to relieve the torment is to release the beast. All this, and Doc Samson! Like *he's* ever sold a book. By Paul Jenkins, Ron Garney and Sal Buscema. **$2.50** (July 19)

IRON MAN BOOKS

MARVEL In *Iron Man* #32 (July 12), it's "The Sons of Yin Sin," part 2 of 3. Stark visits the Sons of Yin Sin's techno-paradise, and he likes what he sees. By Joe Quesada, Frank Tieri, Alitha Martinez and Rob Hunter. And in *Iron Man: Bad Blood* #1 (of 4, July 26), Justin Hammer and Stark go head to head—for the *last* time! "I think people should pick it up if they're Iron Man fans and like what Bob Layton and I did on the book on our two runs," says writer David Michelinie. So go pick it up! By Michelinie and Layton. *Iron Man* #32—**$2.25**, *Blood*—**$2.99**



JLA #45

DC COMICS Ra's Al Ghul continues to threaten and terrorize everyone. Even little girls with pigtails. And their dogs. Even worse, the Justice League finds out someone's been keeping a secret. As if they didn't have enough to worry about. By Mark Waid, Howard Porter and Drew Geraci. **$2.25** (July 26)

JSA #14

DC COMICS Extant has found the solution to all his problems. Don't like the universe? Hell, just create your own! Appalled by his insane actions, the team recruits the only guy who can lend a hand: Mordru. This can't possibly go smoothly. By David S. Goyer, Geoff Johns, Stephen Sadowski and Michael Bair. **$2.50** (July 19)

LEGION LOST #5 (OF 12)

DC COMICS The team continues to get more depressed, as the empty, selfish void that is space continues to taunt and humiliate them. Shikari is the only hope for getting home, but even that isn't a guarantee when a huge space beast gets in their way. By Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning and Olivier Coipel. **$2.50** (July 5)

what I'm reading

PRO PICKS

GREG RUCKA

PHOTO BY PAUL SCHRADI

(writer of Detective Comics, Batman/Huntress: Cry for Blood, Whiteout: Melt)

"*100 Bullets*. It's unrepentantly hard boiled. I like Brian Azzarello's edge. It's really tweaking stories that, in a way, we've seen before. *Preacher*. I really like where they're going with that. *The Adventures of Barry Ween, Boy Genius, Version 2.0*. I'm really liking *Dark Victory*. Chuck Dixon's got something in the works that's gonna be a *Nightwing/Birds of Prey* bash. The stuff I've seen has me really excited about that. I really like the *Torso* stuff. *Fortune and Glory* is great. And I like the *Punisher* stuff Steve and Garth are doing."

MARVEL BOY #2 (OF 6)

MARVEL Marvel Boy has quite the mad-on this month. He's gunning after all of humanity, and his first victims are sad saps in the U.N.! Solution? Chase him off with huge, gamma-ray-zapped, adamantium-laced soldiers. That'll put the thinking cap back on anybody. By Grant Morrison and J.G. Jones. **$2.99** (July 5)

MARVEL KNIGHTS #3

MARVEL "It's the Punisher versus Ulik the Troll, which is a story I've waited 10 years to write," reveals Chuck Dixon. Err...sure, Chuck. "I just always thought that would be a cool story. What would Punisher do? His entire arsenal is no good." The answer to that question and next week's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" episode are in here. By Dixon, Eduardo Barreto and Klaus Janson. **$2.99** (July 26)

MERIDIAN #2

CROSSGEN COMICS What to do when you have the power of the sigil? Whine and moan about it. At least, that's what Sephie does. Her newfound powers don't compensate for the fact that she's stuck in a bizarre new world. They might come in handy when a friend gets into some trouble, though. By Barbara Kesel, Joshua Middleton and Dexter Vines. **$2.95** (late July)

NIGHTWING #47

DC COMICS What sort of unspeakable act could cause a rift between Nightwing and Nite-Wing? Did he hang his leotard over the shower rod again? Sigh. Some guys just don't respect the boundaries of others. By Chuck Dixon, Patrick Zircher and José Marzan Jr. (But what happened to the beautiful art of Mr. Greg Land?) **$2.25** (July 12)

100 BULLETS #14

VERTIGO/DC Despite the name, Dizzy is no pushover. She's a tough cookie—but Paris might prove to be too much. "Another character that's appeared before returns," teases writer Brian Azzarello. That "wraps the story up, and Dizzy

X-FACTORS

ACTRESS HALLE BERRY USES A VERY SLIGHT KENYAN ACCENT TO ADD A TOUCH OF CREDIBILITY TO HER ROLE AS STORM, THE AFRICAN GODDESS OF WEATHER IN "X-MEN."

learns more about The Trust." How ominous. By Azzarello and Eduardo Risso. **MR. $2.50** (July 5)

PREACHER #65

VERTIGO/DC "Alamo," part 7 of 7! The storyarc finally wraps up, as all the loony-toon characters from this warped tale get exactly what's coming to them. But it's not the end yet, folks! The final issue of *Preacher* hits next month. Weeping? Why, we all weep. By Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon. **MR. $3.75** (July 5)

PUNISHER #6 (OF 12)

MARVEL There's something comforting about a craven maniac who dispenses justice as fast as his trigger finger will allow. While Ma Gnucci seeks payback for her dead kin, some Frank Castle-wannabes are terrorizing the city. Leave the vigilante stuff to the experts, kids. By Garth Ennis, Steve Dillon and Jimmy Palmiotti. **MR. $2.99** (July 12)

RISING STARS #9

TOP COW/IMAGE Beginning now: Act Two of "Babylon 5" creator J. Michael Straczynski's epic! Ahh, the life of a superhero: beat up some bad dudes, come home to a busty babe and crack open a brew. Little do these heroes know what kind of influence their existence has on normal folk. Or maybe they do, and get off on it. Find out here. By Straczynski, Christian Zanier and Livesay. **$2.50** (late July)

ROBIN #80

DC COMICS There's a whole lot going on this ish—take notes. Tim's dad comes to visit his sorry butt in boarding school, skater chick Star makes an appearance and Spoiler causes trouble for everyone. Plus, Timmy gets a new roommate, and trouble comes creeping back from his past. Got all that? There's a quiz in five. By Chuck Dixon, Pete Woods and Jesse Delperdang. **$2.25** (July 19)

alsoshipping

MORE BOOKS TO GET

BATMAN BOOKS (MORE OF 'EM) **(DC Comics)** In *Batman: Gotham Knights* #7 (shipping July 19), a battered Bats aids bomb victims. And in *Batman* #581 (July 26), he tangles with Orca. Whatta guy. *Knights*–**$2.50**, *Batman*–**$2.25**

CAPTAIN AMERICA #33 **(Marvel)** Protocide versus U.S.Agent? *And* Nick Fury? It's all good. **$2.25** (July 19)

DARKNESS #33 **(Top Cow/Image)** Learn all about Jackie's twin sister. **$2.50** (late July)

E.V.E. PROTOMECHA #6 **(Image)** E.V.E. makes some life-altering decisions. **$2.50** (late July)

F5 #4 **(Image)** Penny seeks revenge on the team's traitor. **$2.50** (late July)

FANTASTIC FOUR #33 **(Marvel)** The FF take on the otherworldly inhabitants of...Arizona? **$2.25** (July 5)

FLASH #164 **(DC Comics)** Flash is holed up in a stinky jail, in a world convinced he doesn't exist. **$2.25** (July 26)

GREEN LANTERN #128 **(DC Comics)** Lantern and former drug addict Arsenal battle evil Rocket Reds. **$2.25** (July 5)

GRENDEL: DEVIL'S LEGACY #5 (OF 12) **(Maverick/Dark Horse)** Christine Spar gets a visit from Argent. **MR. $2.95** (July 26)

INHUMANS #4 (OF 4) **(Marvel)** Black Bolt is ordered to kill Lilandra. Whatever will he do? **$2.99** (July 5)

JOKER/MASK #3 (OF 4) **(Dark Horse)** Harley and Poison Ivy attempt to separate the mask from its current host. **$2.95** (July 26)

KIN #6 **(Image)** Bob and friends battle it out with the bad guys in Nevada. **$3.95** (late July)

SAM AND TWITCH #12 **(Todd McFarlane/Image)** S&T continue their investigation of the witch murders. **$2.50** (late July)

SOUL SAGA #5 **(Image)** Aries gets charged with treason and gets locked in the pokey. **$2.50** (late July)

SUPERMAN BOOKS **(DC Comics)** Swoosh! "Superman: Arkham" continues this month: In *Adventures of Superman* #582 (July 12), Evil Lois can't seem to get the Big Guy out of her warped mind. In *Superman: The Man of Steel* #104 (July 19) with incredible art by Doug Mahnke, John Irons is pursued by the law. And in *Action Comics* #769 (July 26), Superman is close to figuring out this whole silly mess. **$2.25** each

THOR #27 **(Marvel)** Thor and the Absorbing Man square off, with Dr. Jane Foster caught in the middle. **$2.25** (July 5)

TOMB RAIDER #7 **(Top Cow/Image)** Lara finds a relic in her bedroom. Could it be Michael Douglas? **$2.50** (late July)

WILDCATS #13 **(WildStorm/DC)** Void's secret thoughts and feelings revealed. **$2.50** (July 5)

WITCHBLADE #42 **(Top Cow/Image)** Sara begins to hear strange voices. **$2.50** (late July)

WOLVERINE #154 **(Marvel)** Rob Liefeld has Deadpool going after Wolvie. **$2.25** (July 26)

SENTRY #1 (OF 5)

MARVEL Paul Jenkins and Jae Lee come together to bring you a blast from the past: It's Sentry, the first superhero ever created by Marvel father Stan Lee. Yes, that's right—before the Fantastic Four! **$2.99** (July 19)

SHOCKROCKETS #4

GORILLA/IMAGE Can the Shockrockets get any more advanced? Don't ask so many questions, and you might get some answers, Mr. Nosy. Also: Alejandro's family puts in a visit to 'Rockets Base, and a traitor looms in the background. By Kurt Busiek, Stuart Immonen and Wade von Grawbadger. **$2.50** (late July)

SPAWN #100

IMAGE Wow. Seems like just yesterday ol' Omelet Puss made his first appearance. Now 100 issues later, he gets caught in a Heaven/Hell War, and someone—someone of the female persuasion—dies. In this book, that's not always a bad thing. Just look at ol' Spawn. With six (!) variant covers by Todd McFarlane, Alex Ross, Frank Miller and more! By McFarlane, Brian Holguin, Greg Capullo and Danny Miki. **$4.95** (late July)

SPYBOY #10

DARK HORSE "Dark Horse had a contest where fans were invited to come up with their own spy devices," whispers (We're talking about spies here!) writer Peter David. "The winners get to have their devices featured in the book. That made it particularly exciting, in terms of producing an entertaining story." Uh, "it" being this issue, that is. Full of aerial combat goodness. By David, Pop Mhan and Norman Lee. **$2.95** (July 19)

SUPERMAN #160

DC COMICS The "Superman: Arkham" storyline kicks off here and runs through all the Super-titles this month. Seems someone has fingered Supes (eww!) to be a nutcase, so off in a cell he goes. Who makes sure he's being good? Bizarro. And things get weirder from here. By Jeph Loeb, Ed McGuinness and Cam Smith. **$2.25** (July 5)

ontheedge

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

WHEN DEAD ANIMALS ATTACK!

The kind of book Mom warned you about. In Amaze Ink/Slave Labor's *The Taxidermy* #1, a creepy taxidermist gets the urge to start slapping together parts from various animals. This unholy practice probably wouldn't have gotten him into too much trouble, save for the fact that he manages to tick off a witch, thereby having to endure a curse of having his hideous creations come to life for one hour. Hope his closet has a lock. **$3.95** (shipping late July)

THUNDERBOLTS #42

MARVEL Wonder Man is here! Everybody act impressed! Well, except Atlas, who doesn't take to the big goof too well. Meanwhile, Man-Killer leaps into action. Sounds like every woman we've ever met. By Fabian Nicieza, Mark Bagley and Greg Adams. **$2.25** (July 19)

TOM STRONG #9

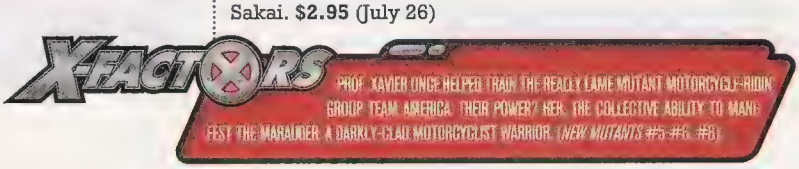
WILDSTORM/DC Three stories for the price of one! You can't find a better deal than that, unless you buy those silly *Letters to Penthouse* paperbacks. Tom goes globetrotting in all the tales. In the *comic* book, not in...never mind. By Alan Moore, Chris Sprouse, Paul Chadwick and Al Gordon. **$2.95** (July 19)

UNIVERSE X: 0

MARVEL The *Earth X* story continues here! Comics maestro Alex Ross unleashes his continuing vision of the future Marvel Universe, and it ain't pretty. The original Captain Mar-Vell is reborn! But what does he have in mind for humanity? Hint: It might not be good. By Ross, Jim Krueger, Doug Braithwaite and Bill Reinhold. **$3.99** (July 26)

USAGI YOJIMBO #39

MAVERICK/DARK HORSE "It's a wild story involving the gods, a giant boar, giant monster snakes, and such," reveals writer/artist Stan Sakai of the comic masterpiece that is *Usagi* (and our "Book of the Month" on page 112). "The prologue to "Grasscutter II," it also marks the actual 100th issue of Usagi, and we're having a contest in the issue where the winner will win all one hundred issues." By Sakai. **$2.95** (July 26)


X-FACTORS
PROF. XAVIER ONCE HELPED TRAIN THE REALLY LAME MUTANT MOTORCYCLE-RIDIN
GROUP TEAM AMERICA. THEIR POWER? HER. THE COLLECTIVE ABILITY TO MANI
FEST THE MARAUDER, A DARKLY-CLAD MOTORCYCLIST WARRIOR. (NEW MUTANTS #5, #6, #8)

X-MEN BOOKS

MARVEL Now that their movie's almost out, the X-Men think their pants smell better than everyone else's. In *Uncanny X-Men* #384 (July 5), evil baddie Killion is introduced. By Chris Claremont, Adam Kubert and Tim Townsend. And in *X-Men* #104 (July 19), said baddie gives both X-Men teams all they can handle. By Claremont, Leinil F. Yu and Mark Morales. **$2.25** each

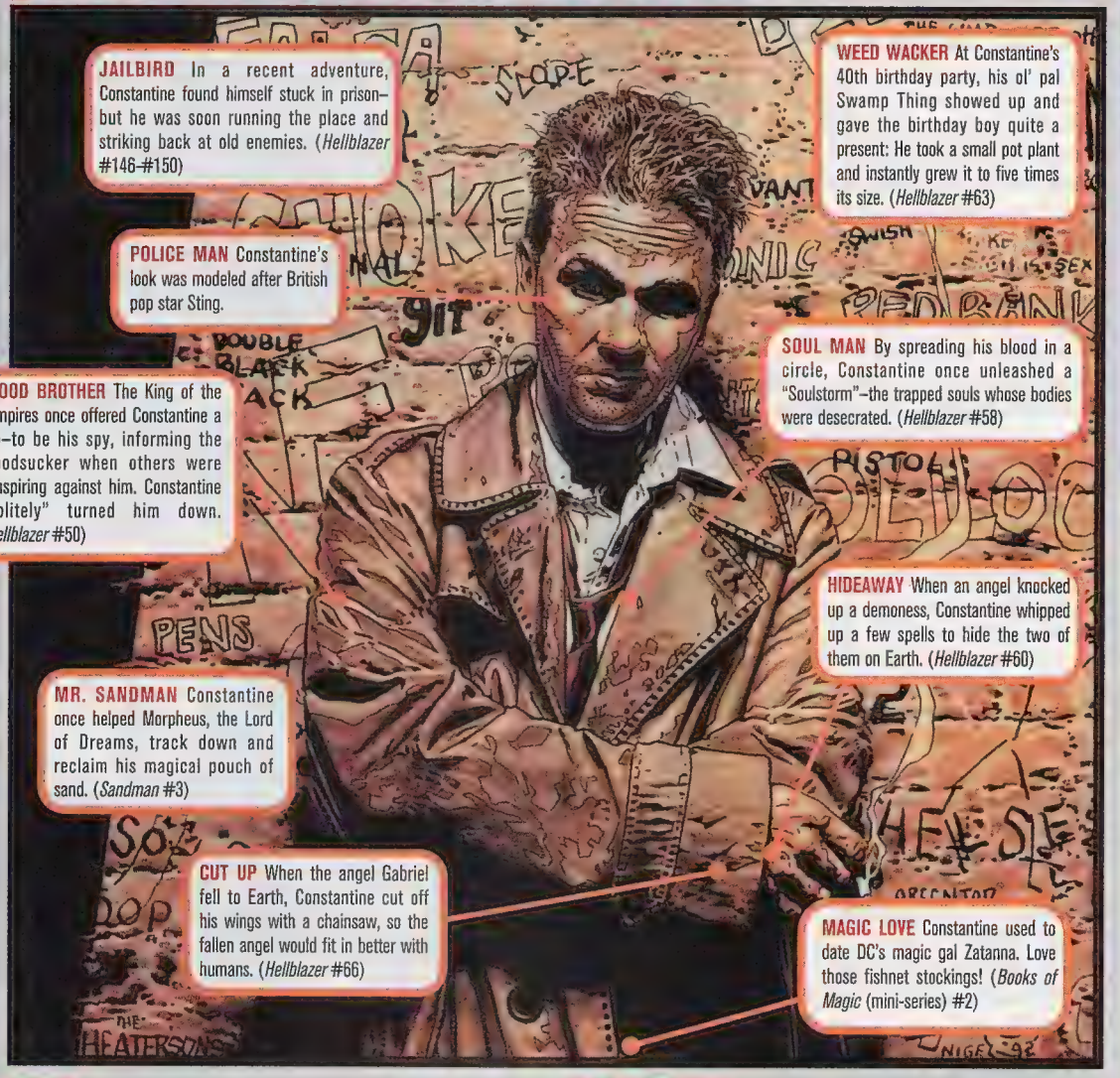
X-MEN: CHILDREN OF THE ATOM #6 (OF 6)

MARVEL "It's really the X-Men's first mission," promises writer Joe Casey of the series' finale. "We see them use their code names for the first time, we see them put on masks for the first time. For all those continuity nuts out there, this is the *true* first appearance of the X-Men doing their thing. Magneto kicks some major ass." Sold! By Casey and Paul Smith. **$2.99** (July 12) (W)

characterprofile

RAP SHEET

JOHN CONSTANTINE


JAILBIRD In a recent adventure, Constantine found himself stuck in prison–but he was soon running the place and striking back at old enemies. (*Hellblazer* #146–#150)
POLICE MAN Constantine's look was modeled after British pop star Sting.
BLOOD BROTHER The King of the Vampires once offered Constantine a job–to be his spy, informing the bloodsucker when others were conspiring against him. Constantine "politely" turned him down. (*Hellblazer* #50)
MR. SANDMAN Constantine once helped Morpheus, the Lord of Dreams, track down and reclaim his magical pouch of sand. (*Sandman* #3)
CUT UP When the angel Gabriel fell to Earth, Constantine cut off his wings with a chainsaw, so the fallen angel would fit in better with humans. (*Hellblazer* #66)
WEED WACKER At Constantine's 40th birthday party, his ol' pal Swamp Thing showed up and gave the birthday boy quite a present: He took a small pot plant and instantly grew it to five times its size. (*Hellblazer* #63)
SOUL MAN By spreading his blood in a circle, Constantine once unleashed a "Soulstorm"–the trapped souls whose bodies were desecrated. (*Hellblazer* #58)
HIDEAWAY When an angel knocked up a demoness, Constantine whipped up a few spells to hide the two of them on Earth. (*Hellblazer* #60)
MAGIC LOVE Constantine used to date DC's magic gal Zatanna. Love those fishnet stockings! (*Books of Magic* (mini-series) #2)

ORIGIN

John Constantine never took the easy path. His birth ruptured his mother's placenta, killing both her and John's twin brother. Growing up, John and his sister were shipped between relatives as their father searched for work. During one of those trips John discovered magic, his true calling. Constantine eventually fell into the most elite magical circles, meeting such luminaries as Dr. Occult, Mister E and the Phantom Stranger. While the odds seem to bend to Constantine's favor, the luck of his friends often seems to suffer. Many have met an untimely end while following Connie on an adventure.

NOW APPEARING

Though he first appeared as a supporting character in *Swamp Thing*, Connie now stars in Vertigo/DC's monthly *Hellblazer*. Under mega-hot writer Brian Azzarello, *Hellblazer* has reignited for a whole new legion of Connie fans–who got their very own introduction to the mage in June's *Vertigo Secret Files: Hellblazer* #1. Azzarello's next story, stretching out over six months, finds Constantine teaming with an FBI agent. "He'll be going to West Virginia," says Azzarello. "He's going there to pay respects to the family of the man whose death he had something to do with–that's why he was in prison. He has sort of a sordid history with them."

USAGI YOJIMBO

THIS RONIN RABBIT KICKS WITH 'INDIANA JONES'-STYLE ACTION-ADVENTURE

Listen up, readers of X-Men, JLA and Avengers: If you're not reading *Usagi Yojimbo*, then you're missing out a series that's been as consistently entertaining than any of 'em. Animal heads and all.

He may have made occasional appearances on the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" cartoon, but Usagi Yojimbo is no more about cuddly bunnies than *Preacher* is about spreading the word of the Lord. Currently wandering the Japanese countryside in the summer of 1605, Usagi is a *ronin*—a masterless samurai—encountering ninja clans, assassins and the occasional demon.

"People who pick up the series at first are kind of prejudiced because it's funny animals—Usagi is actually the Japanese word for rabbit," says *Usagi* writer/artist Stan Sakai, a third-generation Japanese-American who grew up in Hawaii. "But once they start reading it, their opinions change and they just take it for what it is—a pretty good adventure story."

Pretty good, indeed. In fact, Sakai won an Eisner award last year for his fan-favorite "Grasscutter" arc, which ran in *Usagi Yojimbo* #13-#22. Whoever possesses Grasscutter, a blade forged by the gods, would hold a symbol so powerful it could spark a devastating civil war in Japan. Usagi ultimately gained possession of the sword at the end of the first "Grasscutter" story, but now, in "Grasscutter II," two groups of ninjas are after the blade—the Neko ("cat") ninja clan and the Komori ("bat") ninja clan.

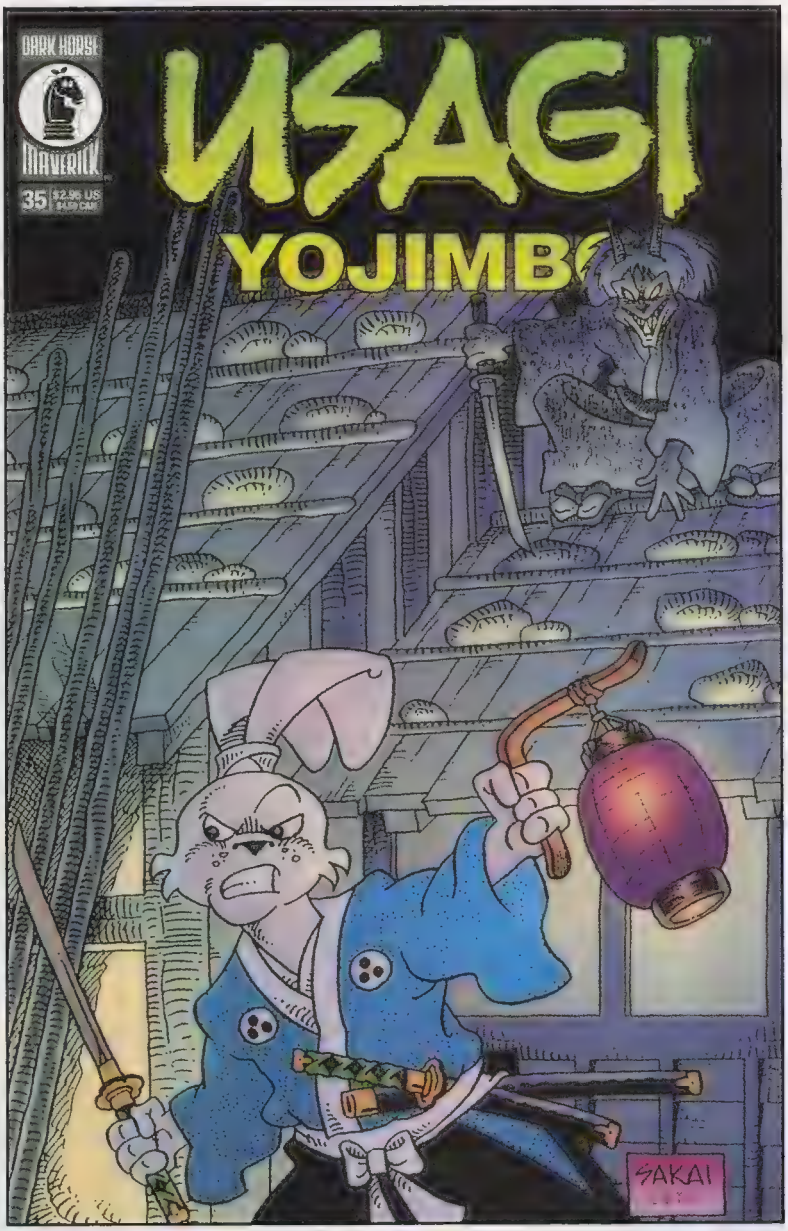
"Grasscutter II" begins in *Usagi Yojimbo* #39 and runs for seven issues. Usagi's mission is to deliver the sword to the Shrine of Atsuta, where an exact replica of Grasscutter is kept. By putting the real sword in place of the fake sword, Grasscutter would be kept safe, essentially hidden in plain sight.

Along the way, Usagi runs into Chizu, who he swapped spit with the last time they met. Unfortunately, she happens to be the head of the Neko-ninja clan. "There will be some romantic interest continuing between those two," promises Sakai. "But Usagi's attitude will change when Chizu does something to betray him and he must go after her."

The Neko ninja clan and the Komori ninja clan clash for the patronage of Lord Hikiji, Usagi's ultimate foe and the man responsible for killing Usagi's master. "The Neko are already Hikiji's agents," Sakai explains. "But the Komori are trying to usurp that position and think that if they present Hikiji with the sword, they'll get in tight with him. The Neko, on the other hand, want the sword for themselves." Sakai describes the Neko ninjas—all drawn as cats—as "your all-purpose ninja," while the Komori ninjas are "ninjas of the air"—nasty bat creatures with blades on their wings.

Sakai promises the story will end with a big fight and "main characters will die glorious deaths!"

But he's not telling who. "You'll have to wait and see,"



X-FACTORS

AFTER A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE X-MEN, CYCLOPS RETURNED AND DUELED THE THEN-POWERLESS STORM FOR LEADERSHIP. EVEN WITHOUT POWERS, STORM DUSTED CYKE, WHO LEFT THE TEAM ALTOGETHER. (UNCANNY X-MEN #201)

teases Sakai. "But there will be a reunion between General Ikeda, who used to be a lord but who now lives the life of a peasant, and the zen priest Sanshobo, who once served as a warrior under Ikeda. One of them won't survive. When I've killed characters off in the past, especially when I killed Usagi's pet lizard, I got so many letters with people writing, 'You bastard!'"

Issue #39 is not only the introduction to "Grasscutter II," it also marks *Usagi Yojimbo*'s 100th issue, calculated by adding up the previous *Usagi* volumes published by Fantagraphics and Mirage to the current Dark Horse run. As part of the anniversary celebration, *Usagi* #39 announces a contest for all 100 issues. "Dark Horse is helping us promote the contest," says Sakai. "But I'm supplying the books myself."

Over the course of those one hundred issues, Usagi met his more-famous friends the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Sakai has a longtime friendship with *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* co-creator Peter Laird, who wrote and drew a TMNT-Usagi crossover in the one-shot titled *Turtle Soup* in the late '80s. And in 1993, Sakai wrote a three-part Usagi-TMNT crossover in his own book. Usagi also appeared in the Turtles cartoon and even had his own toys—an Usagi Yojimbo figure and a "Space Usagi" figure, Usagi's futuristic descendant—in the Turtles toy line.

While *Usagi Yojimbo* has never hit the top of the best-seller lists, the book has an ardent following and Sakai continues to receive critical acclaim for his work. He's up for another Eisner this year for the *Usagi* story titled "The Courtesan." "I'm up against Alan Moore this time, so I don't think I'll win," the creator laughs. But Sakai's not really writing and drawing for awards—he's doin' it for himself. "I basically write whatever I want to," he says. "That's the nice thing about a creator-owned book. The audience I write to is primarily myself. I'm not too worried about how many books are sold. I just try to keep myself entertained." ■ JIM AREHART

Is there a great comic out there that you think more people need to be reading? Let us know! And don't forget to tell us WHY. Write it down now and zip off your comments and suggestions in an e-mail to bookofthemonth@wizardworld.com.

bookmarks

MORE REASONS TO READ THIS BOOK

NOT A FUNNY-ANIMAL BOOK

...and we'll prove it. Here are FIVE reasons why *Usagi Yojimbo*'s one o' the most consistently good comics out there:

1) 'INDIANA JONES'-STYLE ADVENTURE

In the "Grasscutter" epic, Usagi, the demon Jei, the treasonous Conspiracy of Eight and other political factions hunt for the lost, ancient Grasscutter sword. If this "sword of the Gods" falls into the wrong hands, Japan will be destroyed!

2) MAIN CHARACTERS GET HURT

Usagi meets his match with the evil demon Jei and his tainted spear. But when you do that to Usagi...

3) MAIN CHARACTERS DIE

...he'll pull a Conan on you.

4) LOST LOVE

Usagi's old girlfriend Mariko married his rival Kenichi. And when Usagi wants to hang up his warrior life and move back home, Mariko drops a bomb on him.

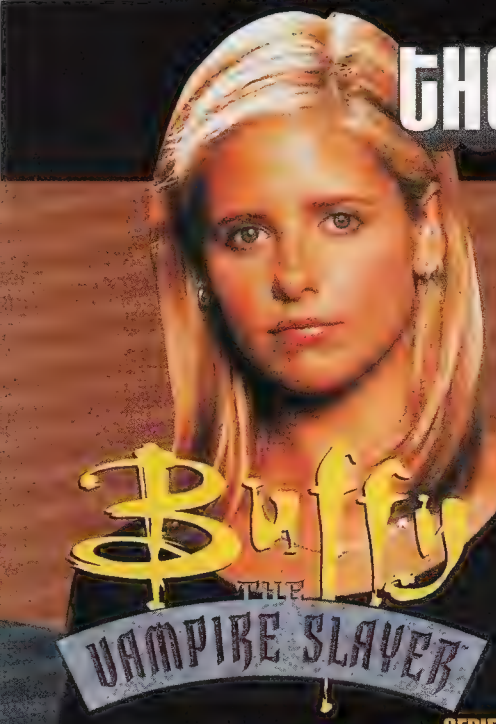
5) IT'S FUNNY

Okay, it may not be a funny-animal book, but *Usagi* can have humorous moments. The book especially thrives on the good-natured ribbing between Usagi and frequent ally Gen.

1
TH-THIS CAN'T BE GRASSCUTTER! IT LOOKS TOO NEW TO BE A SWORD THAT'S BEEN LOST FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS!
B-BUT...
2
GYAAH!!
EYAH!
3
ASK ME TO EXPLAIN. IT'S VERY DIFFICULT. PLEASE-- GO.
LEAVE BUT REFUSE TO GIVE ME THE REASON?
VERY WELL...
SHOOM-O
GYAAHH!
4
JOTARO IS NOT REALLY KENICHI'S SON-- HE'S YOUR'S.
YOU'RE NO FRIEND OF MINE! YOU'RE A CHEAT AND A MANIPULATOR, AND UNTRUSTWORTHY AND A...
OKAY, I ACCEPT YOUR FLATTERY! NOW I'LL LET YOU BUY ME A DRINK AND YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR STORY
WHAT?! BUY YOU A DRINK?!
5
YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO LISTEN TO THE REST OF YOUR STORY SOBER, DO YOU?

Sold on Usagi? *Collect the ongoing monthly* Usagi Yojimbo *series and all 13 action-packed TPBs at your local retailer or order them direct–the first seven are published by Fantagraphics (800) 657-1100, the others by Dark Horse Comics at (800) 862-0052.*
■ THE *WIZARD* STAFF

the ultimate summer



Buffy THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

SERIES CREATOR
JOSS WHEDON
BROUGHT TO YOU BY DARK HORSE COMICS
PUBLISHER OF "BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER"™

WIZARD WORLD
CHICAGO 2000

AUGUST 4-6 2000

ROSEMONT CONVENTION CENTER

MEET HUNDREDS OF STARS FROM THE WORLDS OF ENTERTAINMENT, COMICS, SCI-FI AND GAMING IN OUR HUGE EXHIBIT HALL CRAMMED WITH *AMAZING STUFF!*

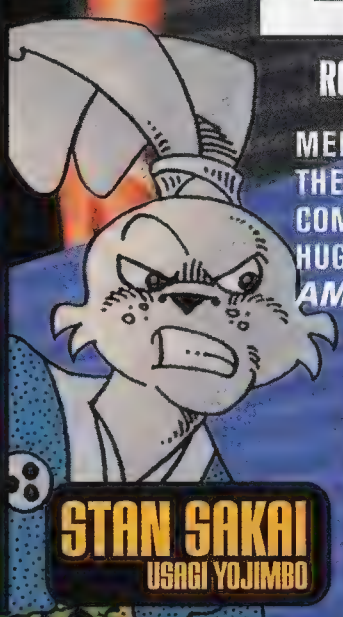
DARK HORSE COMICS

JAN DUURSEMA
STAR WARS

GUY DAVIS
NEVERMEN

CHRIS GOLDEN
BUFFY

TONY DANIEL
THE TENTH, F5



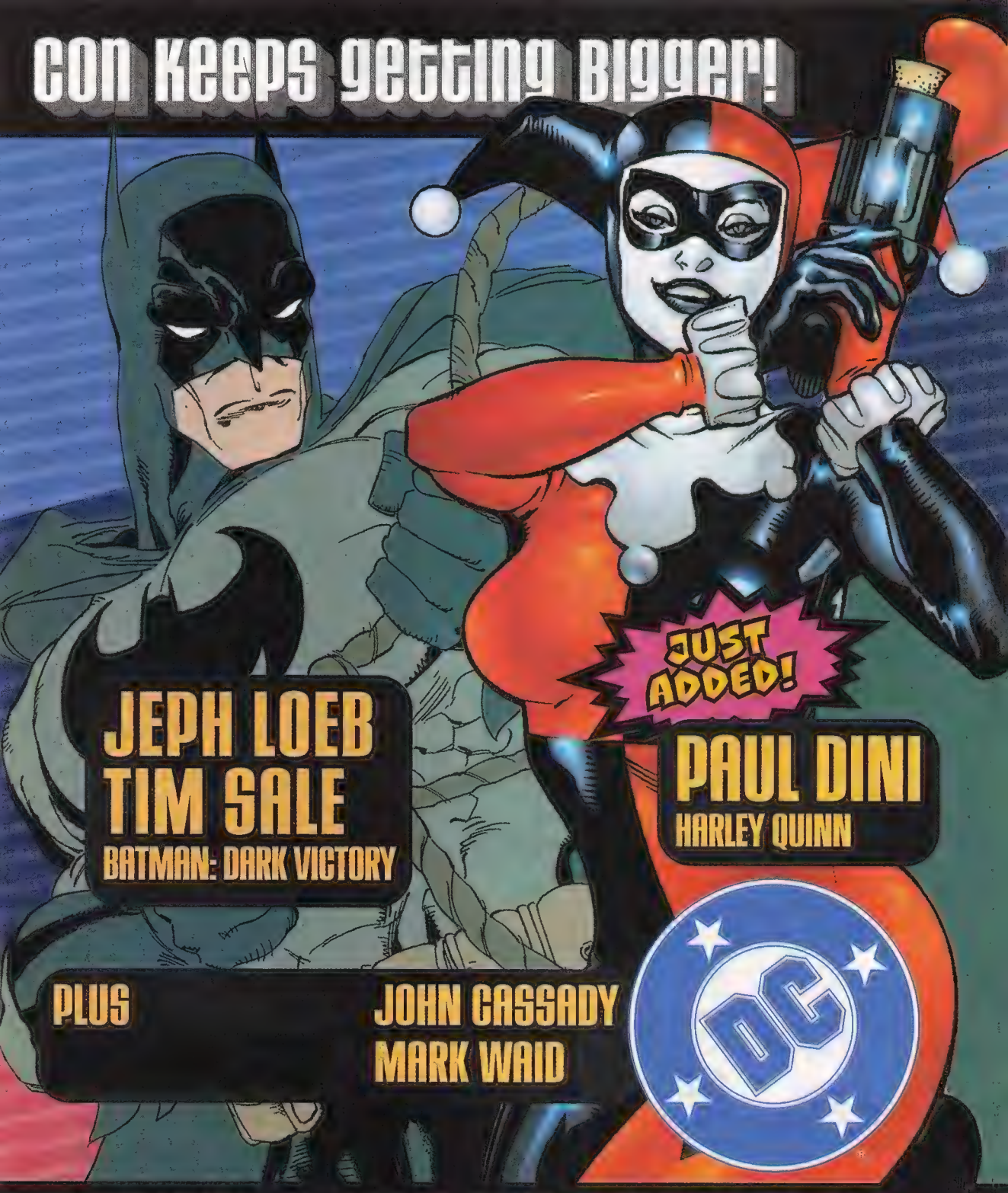
STAN SAKAI
USAGI YOJIMBO

TICKETS		
ADULT	1 DAY $20	3 DAY $40
CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER GET IN	FREE!	

MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED! VISIT US

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO™ & © 2000 WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT. BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER™ & © 2000 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION. USAGI YOJIMBO™ & © 2000 STAN SAKAI. DARK HORSE LOGO™ & © 2000 DARK HORSE COMICS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. GUEST LIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

CON KEEPS GETTING BIGGER!



Payment must be included with all orders. Send check or money order payable to Entertainment Conventions, or pay by credit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Credit card orders must include the card holder's name, the complete card number and expiration date. With payment, please send your name, address, and the specific days you will be attending to: Wizard World Chicago, P.O. Box 656, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.

Tickets are sent via first-class mail for all orders received by July 21, 2000. All orders received after that date will be held for pickup at the door. All orders received after July 28, 2000 will not be processed and returned to sender.

For travel and hotel information, call Tzell Travel at 800-865-9038 ext. 666.

FREE Exclusive *Rising Stars* #1/2 Wizard World Edition and early admission (on Sat. and Sun.) WITH ALL ADVANCE TICKET ORDERS!

This exclusive comic book is written by J. Michael Straczynski and features an all-new limited-edition cover and art by Christian Zanier.

ONLINE AT WIZARDWORLD.COM

WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT

www.wizardworld.com

BATMAN AND HARLEY QUINN ™ & © 2000 DC COMICS. GUEST LIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

'NET GAINS

SHREDDED HEAT

DC destroys 'League of Extraordinary Gentlemen' #5, price skyrockets

Wanna know the fastest way to generate heat for your comics? Destroy 'em. Hey—it works for DC. DC Comics shredded an entire print run of *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* #5, and frenzied collectors now seek the few issues that missed the blades. The purge, ordered because of an actual Victorian-era ad in the back advertising the Marvel Co. "suction vaginal syringe," reportedly cost DC $30,000. This follows the shredding of DC's *Elseworlds 80-Page Giant* #1 last summer, destroyed for a Superbaby story in which the Tyke of Tomorrow drank directly from a cow's udder, and the *Mad Millennium Edition* #1, shredded earlier this year because DC neglected to credit *Mad* creator William Gaines. Those comics now sell for up to $180 and $25, respectively. The shredding of *League* #5—already months late—delayed its release an additional week.

Reportedly, DC Executive VP & Publisher Paul Levitz ordered the print run destroyed not because of any possibly offensive sexual references, but solely for the mention of the "Marvel Co."—a seeming swipe at DC's main competitor. When the book went back to the printer and was finally released on May 10, the only change was the word "Amaze" in place of "Marvel." Every issue of *League* prints several Victorian-era ads, most of them genuine, a few obviously fakes.

League artist Kevin O'Neill, who selects the Victorian ads, was surprised by DC's actions. "It's a genuine, 110-year old ad from *Harper's Weekly*," he said. "It's nothing extraordinary, and I'm puzzled by the reaction—especially since they saw it months ago...Clearly the word 'Marvel' appearing in a DC comic is like radiation falling on someone. It was a slight overreaction, in my opinion."

A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN Chuck Rozanski, owner of Mile High Comics, estimates there are only a few hundred copies of *League* #5 with the original ad (below left) in existence.

EVERY WOMAN
is interested in the wonderful MARVEL "Whirling Spray" SYRINGE, the new injection and suction vaginal syringe. The best, safest and most convenient. It cleanses instantly.
If your druggist cannot supply the Marvel accept no other, but write us for illustrated book, sent free—sealed. It gives particulars and directions invaluable to ladies. MARVEL CO.,
Room A. Times Building, New York.

Overreaction or not, the shredding created an instant collectible—if you can find one. Of the few hundred copies left, most went to the book's creators and select UK retailers as preview copies. "We had one copy here," said Jim Lee, publisher of WildStorm/DC, the imprint for the *League* comic. "I sent it to Alan Moore." Someone with a Diamond Comics Distribution e-mail address put up a copy for sale on eBay, then yanked it 30 minutes after the auction began. Diamond is the exclusive sales distributor for DC .

A copy of the original-printing *League* #5 recently sold on eBay for 147 pounds (approximately $218). DC, after absorbing the $30,000 shredding and reprinting costs, is understandably quiet. DC Manager of Marketing Communications Patty Jeres would only say, "It's not in our best interest to create a collectible that is actually an error." ■ **JIM AREHART**

X-FACTORS THE MOST VALUABLE X-MEN TOY? GOTTA BE THE "BLACK CLAWS" VERSION OF WOLVERINE FROM MATTEL'S MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS LINE WHICH REGULARLY GOES FOR OVER 200 BUCKS.

HIGH GRADE GOLDEN AGE COLLECTION UNEARTHED

After years of storage in a military footlocker, an amazing collection of late Golden Age comics finally sees the light of day.

Lee Hester, owner of Lee's Comics (lcomics.com) stores in Palo Alto and San Mateo, Calif., has discovered the "Palo Alto Collection," a mother lode of Golden Age books originally purchased on the newsstand by a U.S. soldier. This 450-book trove includes titles from DC, Atlas, Fawcett, Archie, Quality and EC. Most date to 1950 to 1954 and are in excellent condition. The collection has "a lot of books from a time period where high grade books are seemingly non-existent," says Mark Haspel, grader for CGC.

The collection includes a NM *Batman* #62 with Catwoman's origin and several EC issues used in the Senate investigation hearings that led to the formation of the Comics Code Authority.

Lee plans to auction the books individually on eBay during the San Diego ComiCon this July 17-26. The collection will also be displayed at the San Diego con during that time. "There will be a machine at our booth in San Diego where people can bid on the books while they're at the convention," said Lee's Comics treasurer Clayton Ikler.

The reserve price for each book will be the current Overstreet Guide price. According to Ikler, the books are such a high grade that collectors will likely be more than willing to pay premium prices.

"They still have white pages and very bright colors—they're just beautiful books," said Ikler. "Looking at them, you feel like a child from that era picking them up off the shelf." ■ JA

Q: I don't remember you from the Muppets. Which one were you? –*Alec Michiko, Premont, TX*

A: *...WHAT?!? May the Lone Star State burn for such impudence! I am the Collector, wielder of the dread Reality Gem and universal collector supreme! And piss on your muppets!*

Q: Are autographed comics worth more? –*Henry Thirin, Monroe, MI*

A: *A hot topic for debate! A comic you get autographed yourself will be cool to own, but it usually won't garner any increase in price. It might actually decrease in resale value. Authenticated autographed comics, like those available through Dynamic Forces (dynamicforces.com) or Another Universe (anotheruniverse.com), normally sell for over guide values because the buyer knows the signature is legit.*

Q: Is original comic art worth collecting? –*CmxFan69@aol.com*

A: *Indeed! If you think owning a good comic is gratifying, imagine owning the one-of-a-kind piece of art the comic was made from! That, and strong pieces of art–covers, pin-ups, splash pages, poster art, historic moments–almost always see a market value increase.*

GOT A QUESTION?
Write your questions to:
ASK THE COLLECTOR
c/o Wizard Entertainment
151 Wells Ave.
Congers, NY 10920
e-mail:
askthecollector@wizard-world.com

MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN THE INDUSTRY

UPS & DOWNS

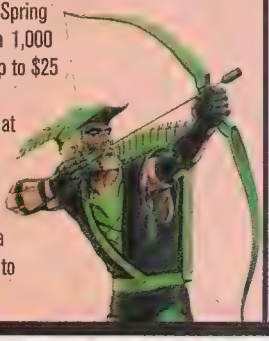
'X-MEN' #100 We've said it before, but it's got to be said again: Chris Claremont's return to the *X-Men* has met with resounding approval from the fans. After direct-market sales, direct-market reorders, newsstand sales and subscriptions, this ish sold over 200,000 copies.

COUNTER-X Fans have flocked to writer/crazy man Warren Ellis' new vision on *Generation X*, *X-Force* and *X-Man*. The first issues of Ellis' run on these formerly low-tier X-books fetch $4-$5 these days.

GREEN ARROW DC editor and Kevin Smith chum Bob Schreck declared Kevin's *Green Arrow* project a go for 2001–and it *will* be Oliver Queen. Look for *Green Arrow* #101 and #137–Ollie's "death" and "return" issues–to increase in price.

'CRISIS' CHROMIUM These special *Millennium Edition: Crisis on Infinite Earths* #1s with chromium covers were given exclusively by Diamond Distributors to retailers during their "Spring Break" meetings this year. Less than 1,000 reportedly exist, and they're going for up to $25 a pop.

TOP COW Top Cow made a big splash at this spring's E3 video game convention with their exclusive E3-stamp, variant-cover editions of *Tomb Raider* #1 and *Fear Effect* #1. Only a few weeks later, they're trading for up to $10 each.



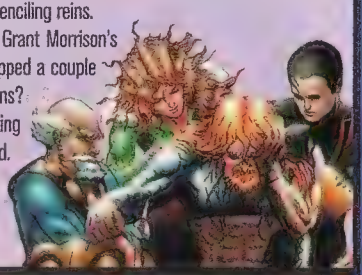
AQUAMAN The King of the Seven Seas will have plenty of time to talk to all the little fishies as *Aquaman* gets canceled this year with issue #75. This makes three strikes for King Arthur–he's had two series drown on him before.

ANY PUBLISHERS OUTSIDE OF 'THE BIG THREE' Only four non-Marvel, non-DC and non-Image books hit this month's Top 100 list–and three of them were Nos. 98, 99 and 100. And the Crusade book at No. 39 was a Wolverine crossover.

THE DIRECT MARKET Books like Chaos! Comics' *Insane Clown Posse: The Pendulum*, Dark Horse's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and DC's Cartoon Network title *Powerpuff Girls* continue to sell like hotcakes out in the real world, while making little impact in the direct market. Too bad. If retailers really want new readers in their stores, these comics could lure 'em in.

WONDER WOMAN Sales are so low for this Amazing Amazon they barely register. It's a shame for a heroine that's supposedly on a par with Batman and Superman. Look for things to possibly pick up this November when Phil Jimenez picks up writing and penciling reins.

'JLA' #1 The debut issue for Grant Morrison's popular relaunch of the JLA dipped a couple of bucks recently. Our suspicions? DC's *Millennium Edition* reprinting of that ish drove down demand. Look for other books that get *Millennium*-ized this year to also decrease in value.



Comics by the Numbers THE TICKER

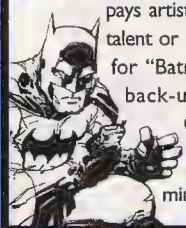
3,000,000 Free copies of the movie-exclusive *X-Men The Movie: Wolverine* comic to be given out by Marvel and 20th Century Fox at the "X-Men" movie screenings.

56,400 Dollars paid at Christie's East auction house for actor Christopher Reeve's Superman costume.

20,000 Copies of *Witchblade* #40, the debut issue for new writer Paul Jenkins and new artist Keu Cha, bought by Dynamic Forces and retailer Chris Conklin for resale that are not reflected in the direct sales figures from Diamond.

5,000 Reorder copies available of Marvel's *Inhumans* (vol. 3) #1 that sold out in less than one week.

210 Dollars per page that DC Comics pays artists—whether they're star talent or bottom of the drawer—for "Batman: Black and White" back-up stories in *Batman: Gotham Knights*.



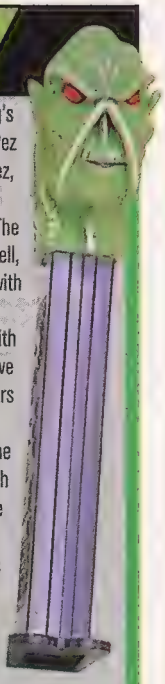
30 Exact number of minutes an original-printing *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* #5 was available for auction on eBay by someone with a Diamond Comics e-mail address before the seller yanked it (see lead story on page 116).

25% Amount Image Comics' *Powers* #1 was overshipped (And it still sold out!).

19 Total comics Kevin Smith has written professionally: *Daredevil* (vol. 2) #1/2, #1-#8, *Daredevil Cybercomic*, *Oni Double Feature* #1 (Jay and Bob story), *Oni Double Feature* #12 (Bluntman and Chronic story), *Clerks*, *Clerks Holiday Special*, *Clerks: The Lost Scene*, *Jay and Silent Bob* #1-4.

SOLD ON eBAY

GOING, GOING, SOLD TO THE MAN IN THE YELLOW HAT



SWAMP PEZ What could be better than eating Pez out of Swamp Thing's head? Uh…well a lot of stuff, but trust us, this custom-made Swamp Thing Pez dispenser (at right) is ultra-cool for only $5. Throw in a few green-colored Pez, and you'll be the hit of the party. If it's filled with geeks.

LUNCH WITH THE MAN Always wanted to share a little time with Stan "The Man" Lee, co-creator of Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four and the X-Men? Well, eBay sold that chance for only $1,925. One lucky winner'll sit down to lunch with Lee and ask him if the Thing is really rocky all over.

AQUA PATCH Before Aquaman got all hairy and started skewering people with a hook, he was a fun-loving, caring king of the sea. Now for only $10.50, we can remember Aquaman in his prime–this 1960s Iron-On Aquaman Patch stars the little guppy in all his glory.

CHRISTMAS FLASH Hey, nothing goes together better than Christmas and the Flash, and for only $6.95 on eBay you could unite the two. With a Flash Hallmark Christmas Ornament on your tree, you'll have a super-hot pose of the Flash and a Christmas even Captain Cold couldn't ruin.

SPIDEY TEETH TINGLING Spider-Man just can't get a good gig. But his loss is your gain, since for only $3 on eBay you can have a 1979 Avon Spider-Man Toothbrush Holder. Sure, your Mom would never get it for you, but now you're in control and the Avon lady's on eBay!

DO-IT-YOURSELF SPIDEY Unless Todd McFarlane makes 'em, a lot of action figures blow…so make your own! If you'd bought the $22.49 Spider-Man Creepy Crawlers Kit on eBay, you could, with bendable wires and "official plasti-goop compound" hardened around said wires. Why don't we have this technology anymore?

GOD OF LIGHT If it's dark out, who better to lead you than Thor, the God of Thunder? He and Mr. Fantastic, the Thing, the Human Torch and the Silver Surfer come in the 1978 Marvel Glowing Flashlight set, for $100 bucks. They're invaluable for when your mommy turns off the lights. Eeeek!

TELL US about your weird eBay findings! Send photos, etc. to:
SOLD ON EBAY
c/o Wizard Entertainment
151 Wells Ave., Congers, NY 10920
e-mail: soldonebay@wizardworld.com

SITESEEING

COLLECTING THE INTERNET

http://members.xoom.com/Jhiaxus12/andrew.html "The Obscure Transformers Web Page," brought to you by a hardcore Generation One and Generation Two fan, features obscure characters from the U.S. toy lines, comics, and TV show, the UK comics, and some Japanese characters. For a hearty guffaw, check out the "Transformers that aren't nude" section and the site's official mascot, Straxus.

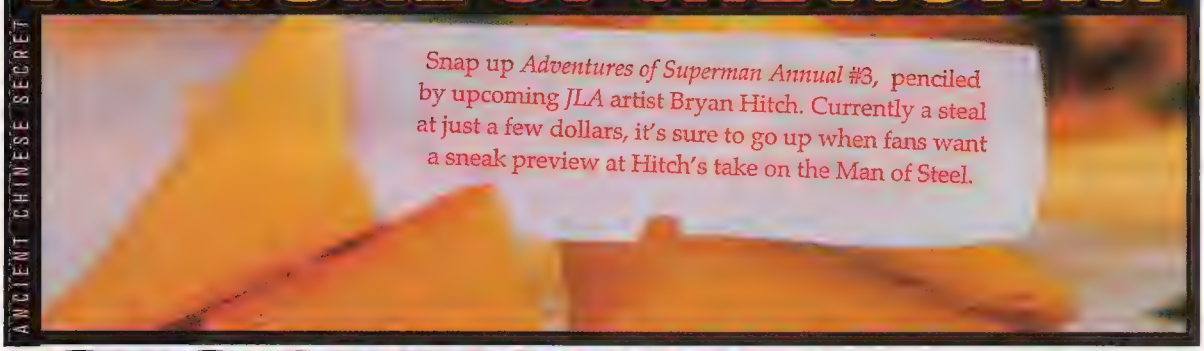
www.big-tel.com The *Adventures of the Nestle Quik Bunny*? *Cheap Trick* #1?! *Captain America Meets the Campbell Soup Kids*?!? Yep, these were all promotional comics released by Marvel, and "Big Tel's Website" lists and provides cover scans for these and other hysterical giveaways. Be sure to check out *Spider-Man and the Dallas Cowboys*.

www.yojoe.com An essential Website for those considering themselves true fans of the 3" Joes! See scans of your favorite figures (along with their filecards and accessories), see video clips from classic commercials, read reviews of every comic and hear audio clips from the cartoon. Plus, the answer to the question that plagues us all: Who is Big Lob?

http://www.coverprice.com/comics1.html The name of this site says it all; get comics at their original cover price! We're not just talking bargain bid fodder either. There are tons of older big-name books and companies to choose from, although we are happy that we can finally complete our *Jemm, Son of Saturn* set. Woo-hoo!

X-FACTORS WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, MAKE 'EM A NINJA! SOME X-MEN CHARACTERS WHO HAVE APPEARED IN UNLIKELY NINJA OUTFITS IN TOY BIZ'S ACTION FIGURE LINES INCLUDE SABRETOOTH, DEATHBIRD, ICEMAN AND ROGUE.

FORTUNE OF THE MONTH



Snap up *Adventures of Superman Annual* #3, penciled by upcoming *JLA* artist Bryan Hitch. Currently a steal at just a few dollars, it's sure to go up when fans want a sneak preview at Hitch's take on the Man of Steel.

STOCKING UP

The race is on! *Wizard* drafted three comic back-issue gladiators—comic writer Jeph Loeb, *Wizard* editor Brian Cunningham and comic fan extraordinaire David Massuda—and pitted them in a competition to see who can build the most valuable comic portfolio by issue #112. We've hooked each one of 'em up with a thousand bucks and given them one simple edict: Buy books that will make you money. Our contestants will make at least three transactions per month and never have more than 10 different titles in their portfolio (multiple copies of the same title are okay). So track our favorite fan as he butts heads with industry heavyweights. If Massuda wins, we'll hook him up with $250 of free merch. If he comes in second, he'll get $100 of swag. Dead last? Bupkiss. Be here every month to see who comes out on top. Three men enter, one man wins!

PARTICIPANTS	**DAVID MASSUDA** Comic Fan	**JEPH LOEB** Comic Creator	**BRIAN CUNNINGHAM** Wizard Editor
PORTFOLIO	Incredible Hulk (v. 1) #181, $525; Elseworlds 80-Page Giant #1, up to $200; Amazing Spider-Man (v. 1) #129, up to $150, Batman: LOTDK #120, $6; Punisher (v. 4) #1, $3.50; Batman #567, $4; Batgirl #1, $4; Batman: The Dark Knight Returns #1-4, $44; Wolverine (first mini-series) #1-4, $95	Giant-Size X-Men #1 $550; 14 copies Punisher (v. 4) #1 $49; 10 copies Punisher (v. 4) #1A (white cover) $110; Superman #151, #154 $5; Amazing Spider-Man (v. 1) #129, $150; Batman: The Long Halloween #1-#13, $76.50; 3 copies each Iron Man (v. 3) #26-#29, $24.75; 2 copies Daredevil (v. 2) #1, $24; 3 copies Soul Saga #1A, $9.	Incredible Hulk (v. 1) #181 $525; Punisher (1st mini-series) #1-#5 $26; Miracleman #1-#16 113; Transformers #71-#80 $171; Watchmen #6 $23.50; Punisher War Journal #1 $1.50; Amazing Spider-Man #129 $150; Punisher (v. 4) #1A $12
TRANSACTIONS	**DROPPED Hulk (v.1) #180, $100; Daredevil (v. 2) #1, $12; Witchblade #1, $35. ADDED Batman #567, $4; Batgirl #1, $4; Batman: The Dark Knight Returns #1-4, $44; Wolverine (first mini-series) #1-4, $95.**	**DROPPED 20 copies Punisher (v. 4) #1B, $200; Daredevil (v. 2) #1B, $85. ADDED Amazing Spider-Man (v. 1) #129, $150; Batman: Long Halloween #1-#13, $76.50; 3 copies each Iron Man (v. 3) #26-#29, $24.75; 2 copies Daredevil (v. 2) #1, $24; 3 copies Soul Saga #1A, $9.**	**DROPPED Watchmen #1-#4, #6 $23.50; Batman: The Dark Knight Returns #1-#4 $44; and Wolverine (1st mini-series) $95. ADDED Amazing Spider-Man #129 $150; Punisher (v. 4) #1A $12.**
WHAT THEY'RE THINKING	"*Batman* #567 was the first appearance of the new Batgirl *without* her costume and *Batgirl* #1 is a hot book. Since Frank Miller signed on for the *Dark Knight Returns* sequel, now people will want the originals. And I got the *Wolverine* mini-series because of all the movie hype."	"*Amazing Spider-Man* (v. 1) #129 is the first Punisher. With *Dark Victory* ending, interest will heat up on *Long Halloween*. As for *Iron Man*, I've got one word: Joe Quesada. With *Daredevil*, I'm just shifting my portfolio. And *Soul Saga*, those books are heating up."	"I think I jumped too soon on *Dark Knight*, *Watchmen* and *Wolverine*. I may go back to 'em, but for now, I gotta do just that: stay in the 'now' with the red-hot Punisher. If I don't time his back-issue heat just right, Frank Castle could take me down."
WHAT WE'RE THINKING	*Elseworlds 80-Page Giant* #1 has gone up, because of the recent shredding of *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* #5 (see lead story, p. 116). Let's see if David's forecast of Batgirl fever takes off as well.	Jeph's trend of buying into his own work continues, now with *Long Halloween*. Maybe Jeph knows something we don't know. *Dark Victory* is a big seller–has he planned a surprise ending for his thousands of readers?	Hmmm...notice how *Wizard*'s own editor's portfolio from last month DID NUTHIN'. (Just thought we'd point that out.) Anyway, going with the Punisher ain't a bad way to try and turn things around.
CURRENT VALUE	**$1,031.50 ($1,000*) (with 50 cents in the bank)**	**$1,008.25 ($1,000*) (with $1.75 in the bank)**	**$999.50 ($1,000*) (with 50 cents in the bank)**

MASSUDA PHOTO COURTESY OF MASSUDA. OTHERS BY PAUL SCHRAUB.

HOT 10 comics

***Wizard*, by staying in touch with hundreds of retailers throughout the country, keeps a close eye on the country's hottest back issues. These are the books ringing the registers this month...**

1 PUNISHER #1

WRITER: Garth Ennis
ARTISTS: S. Dillon and J. Palmiotti

A merciless killin' machine...that's what the kids like these days, and that's what they get. Demand for this puppy dog continues to climb, thanks to the sustained popularity of the series in general. How can one *not* love the antics of a face-breaking, knife-wielding, bullet-loving mass murderer? Great showing for a title with low breast content. Breasts, as you may know, sell comics. Read on!

LAST MONTH: 2

2 X-MEN #100

WRITER: Chris Claremont
ARTIST: Leinil F. Yu and M. Morales

Even with reorders topping 17,000, this book (and all its variants) still managed to sell out completely. Having Claremont back at the helm sure doesn't hurt, either. And with a movie hitting theaters right about...now...demand for anything X-related is going to be at an all-time high. Yessir, just stick them dirty muties in a major motion picture, and have enough Wolverine letter openers ready to ship to Wal-Mart.

LAST MONTH: 1

3 BATGIRL #1

WRITERS: K. Puckett and S. Peterson
ARTISTS: D. Scott and R. Campanella

Breast Alert #1! A saucy chick in a skintight costume. And she's mute! Sometimes, dreams do come true. Quite frankly, there was no better idea than to take a leading, still-hot character (Batman) and give him a chest. It's like printing money! Legally, we mean!

LAST MONTH: N.R. (NOT RATED)

4 100 BULLETS #1

WRITER: Brian Azzarello
ARTIST: Eduardo Risso

More carnage made redeemable by solid storytelling from Brian Azzarello. Say, what is it about these grim, dank tales of lust and treachery? Why must the underworld beckon us so? Read an Archie comic for balance every once in awhile. Does us good.

LAST MONTH: N.R.

5 RISING STARS #1

WRITER: J. Michael Straczynski
ARTIST: Keu Cha and Jason Gorder

Here's a sleeper title that attracted some attention early on, mainly due to the following for creator J. Michael Straczynski (TV's "Babylon 5"). Whereas most new titles drop off in sales somewhat, this book is actually picking up steam as it goes along, making the debut issue all the sexier.

LAST MONTH: N.R.

6 E.V.E. PROTOMECHA #1

WRITER: A. Lusen and C. Lichtner
ARTISTS: Ale Garza and Kaleb Salstrom

Breast Alert #2! This Image title printed low and had a strong response, with copies hovering around $8-$10, and so long as the depletion continues, so will the response to this book. And of course, nothing beats having a woman and her "twins" featured prominently in every issue.

LAST MONTH: 3

7 MAGDALENA #1

WRITER: Marcia Chen
ARTISTS: Joe Benitez and Joe Weems

"Gahhh! Variant covers! Must...buy them all!" The suckers fall for it again, as all six covers to this boobfest (#3!) sell out spectacularly. Three regular versions, one convention-only, one holofoil, and one fandom.com printing make collectors forget all about college.

LAST MONTH: 5

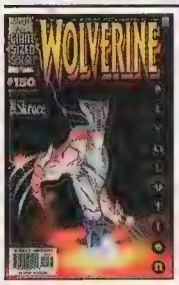
8 GUNDAM WING #1

WRITERS: H. Yadete and Y. Yukitomino
ARTIST: Koichi Tokito

Manga sure can be trippy sometimes, what with all the oversized eyes and plots obviously inspired by strong illegal drug consumption. But the kids seem to be able to figure it out without much difficulty. And you know, saying Gundam Wing over and over again, it *really* starts to sound funny.

LAST MONTH: N.R.

9 WOLVERINE #150

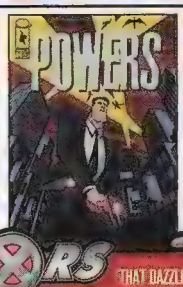


WRITER: Steve Skroce
ARTISTS: Steve Skroce and Larry Stucker

Short hairy guys are all the rage these days, apparently. Anyhow, Steve Skroce makes his writing/penciling debut in this issue, and fans just love the fella. Look for Hugh Jackman's Wolverine impression to increase demand for anything featuring Logan.

LAST MONTH: N.R.

10 POWERS #1



WRITER: Brian Michael Bendis
ARTIST: Mike Avon Oeming

There was high demand for this story of a cop covering superhero homicides. Writer Brian Michael Bendis is hot right now thanks to his cult hits *Torso* and *Fortune and Glory*.

LAST MONTH: N.R.

X-FACTORS

THAT DAZZLER SURE GETS AROUND. BEFORE MARRYING LONGSHOT, DAZZLER (ALISON BLAIRE) DATED THE ANGEL AND EVEN CARRIED ON A TORRID AFFAIR WITH THE BEAST. CHICKS MUST LOVE THE BLUE. (*DAZZLER #17, #28; BEAUTY AND THE BEAST #1, #4*)

The initial reviews are pouring in from collectors and dealers across the country...

..."CGC is the Future of Comic Book Collecting"

"returned my initial payments twenty-fold"

"As a dealer specializing in internet sales, a problem has always been getting the customer to agree with grading. CGC takes the mystery out of grading. The CGC books I've posted on eBay have returned my initial payments twenty-fold. I am a strong supporter of CGC."

Dan Cusimano, Flying Donut Trading Company

"no more than a half grade between us"

"Just a quick note to let you how much I like the service so far. CGC's grading, compared to mine matched up as follows: 50-55% the same, 25-30% higher, 20-25% lower. For the most part the difference was no more than a half grade between us. This was what I was looking for from your service. Keep up the good work and stay on track."

Ron Ragovin • 4-Color Comics

"Action #1 has found a new home"

"As I expected, my books were accurately graded by CGC. But I was surprised at the quality presentation of their holder. It's light-weight but gives superb protection. I can see a book from all angles and the colors are clear. My Action #1 has found a new home in a CGC holder, and more of my collection will soon follow."

Daniel Kramer

"never buy a key book without CGC"

"I appreciate the work you guys are doing at CGC. I've been very satisfied with the grading. Certain books you graded 9.4 I was hoping for a 9.6 but I cannot argue the validity of your grade. What CGC is doing for the hobby is fantastic. Your grading and restoration check has removed the uncertainty and fear many new buyers experience. I believe many people who are outside of the hobby will begin to purchase books and I just wish you had been here when I first started buying the expensive key issues. I will never buy a key book without CGC certification. Keep up the good work."

Tom Brulato

"the future of comic book collecting"

"I am writing to tell you how pleased I am with your grading and service. I am confident that CGC certification will bring a renaissance in the hobby. From this first batch, I can tell you the grading is accurate and the holder is an excellent product. There is no doubt that CGC is the future of comic book collecting."

Jeff Hinds

"a superb job packaging, sealing and grading the books"

"With 25 years experience I consider myself a fair but strict grader of books. I graded each book before sending them off. When they came back, coded and sealed, your grades matched mine exactly on all 12 books. I give credit to your crew, you've done a superb job packaging, sealing and grading the books."

Thomas Maletta
Best Comics & Hobby Center

"spared another horror story"

"Comic collecting has been a risky venture for the novice. Every collector I know has at least one horror story where thousands of dollars are lost and enthusiasm for the hobby is dampened. CGC levels the playing field and provides peace of mind for any collector who uses their service. I recently spent over $4,000 on a pair of books that I then sent to CGC. The result: both had been restored. The seller honored the return and I was spared another horror story. I could go on and on about why I like CGC but the bottom line is that they're going to make this hobby a lot safer and a lot more fun."

Mike Grissmer

CGC is an independent member of the Certified Collectibles Group of companies.

COMICS GUARANTY, LLC

"amazed at the prices"

"We are amazed at the prices our CGC comic books are realizing on eBay."

Steven Fishler
Metropolis Comics

Comics Guaranty is ready to grade and certify your comic books, giving you the CGC advantage:

Top expert graders • State-of-the-art comic book protection • Full restoration check • Impartial grading to a market standard established by over 50 Comics experts • Tamper-evident holder designed to open safely • Great low prices, starting at just $12.50 per book!

Ready to submit books to CGC?
Call us for instructions and submission forms!

1-877-NM-COMIC
P.O. Box 1938
Parsippany, NJ 07054-0237
fax 973-721-9474
www.CGCcomics.com

THE HIGHEST ORDERED BOOKS FOR THE MONTH OF **JUNE**

HITLIST

TOP50

The first numeral indicates current sales rank; the second, sales rank the previous month. Titles denoted with a (-) weren't available last month. Compiled by the *Wizard* price guide staff using data from Diamond Comic Distributors

1. *(2)* **Uncanny X-Men #382 (Marvel)**
2. *(3)* X-Men #102 (Marvel)
3. *(4)* Wolverine #152 (Marvel)
4. *(6)* JLA #43 (DC)
5. *(5)* Avengers #30 (Marvel)
6. *(8)* Punisher #4 (Marvel)
7. *(7)* Spawn #98 (Todd McFarlane/Image)
8. *(-)* Daredevil #14 (Marvel)
9. *(-)* Marvel Knights #1 (Marvel)
10. *(10)* Fantastic Four #31 (Marvel)
11. *(11)* Tomb Raider #6 (Top Cow/Image)
12. *(14)* Amazing Spider-Man #19 (Marvel)
13. *(-)* Avengers 2000 (Marvel)
14. *(17)* Batman #579 (DC)
15. *(18)* Batman: Dark Victory #8 (DC)
16. *(16)* Peter Parker: Spider-Man #19 (Marvel)
17. *(20)* Iron Man #30 (Marvel)
18. *(22)* Detective Comics #746 (DC)
19. *(24)* Rising Stars #8 (Top Cow/Image)
20. *(21)* Batgirl #4(DC)
21. *(23)* Captain America #31 (Marvel)
22. *(25)* X-Force #104 (Marvel)
23. *(12)* Magneto: Dark Seduction #2 (Marvel)
24. *(28)* Generation X #65 (Marvel)
25. *(26)* Cable #81 (Marvel)
26. *(27)* Mutant X #21 (Marvel)
27. *(15)* Thor #25 (metallic foil cover) (Marvel)
28. *(-)* Marvels Comics: X-Men #1 (Marvel)
29. *(35)* Nightwing #45 (DC)
30. *(31)* Batman: Gotham Knights #5 (DC)
31. *(36)* X-Man #65 (Marvel)
32. *(32)* JSA #12 (DC)
33. *(34)* Superman #158 (DC)
34. *(30)* X-Men: Children of the Atom#4 (Marvel)
35. *(-)* **Witchblade #40 (Top Cow/Image)**
36. *(33)* Magdalena #3 (Top Cow/Image)
37. *(39)* Preacher #63 (Vertigo/DC)
38. *(37)* Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #131 (DC)
39. *(-)* **Wolverine/Shi: Dark Night of Judgment #1 (Marvel/Crusade)**
40. *(52)* Steampunk #4 (WildStorm/DC)
41. *(38)* Action Comics #767 (DC)
42. *(40)* Green Lantern #126 (DC)
43. *(-)* Before The 4: Ben Grimm & Logan #1 (Marvel)
44. *(43)* Flash #162 (DC)
45. *(-)* Crimson #18 (WildStorm/DC)
46. *(49)* Adventures of Superman #580 (DC)
47. *(48)* Superman: The Man Of Steel #102 (DC)
48. *(45)* Incredible Hulk #16 (Marvel)
49. *(46)* Thunderbolts #40 (Marvel)
50. *(51)* Gambit #18 (Marvel)

1. X-ONERATED! Writer Chris Claremont's scorching return to both X-Men books keeps Marvel's mutants white hot in time for the "X-Men" movie.

39. CLAWS AND EFFECT Of all the books in the Top 50, the Shi half of *Wolverine/Shi* #1 is the only non-Marvel/DC/Image representation.

35. WEAK SPELL At No. 35, this book is seriously underordered, as fan-faves Paul Jenkins and Keu Cha come on board *Witchblade* #40.

NEXT50

51. Dark Crossings Special: Dark Cloud Rising #1 (Image)
52. X-Men: The Hidden Years #8 (Marvel)
53. Silver Age #1 (DC)
54. Silver Age: Justice League Of America #1 (DC)
55. Inhumans #2 (Marvel)
56. Silver Age: Green Lantern #1 (DC)
57. Empire #1 (Gorilla/Image)
58. Tom Strong #8 (WildStorm/DC)
59. Titans #17 (DC)
60. Witchblade: Destiny's Child #2 (Top Cow/Image)
61. Marvels Comics: Spider-Man #1 (Marvel)
62. Marvels Comics: Fantastic Four #1 (Marvel)
63. Marvels Comics: Daredevil #1 (Marvel)
64. **Superman/Gen^{13} #2 (WildStorm/DC)** Artist Lee Bermejo on DC's reaction to his Superman rendition: "All I've been told is that I draw Superman's package too big. Maybe there's a whole department that looks at packages."
65. Robin #78 (DC)
66. Silver Age: The Flash #1 (DC)
67. Top 10 #9 (WildStorm/DC)
68. Avengers Two: Wonder Woman And Beast #3 (Marvel)
69. Spider-Girl #22 (Marvel)
70. Marvels Comics: Thor #1 (Marvel)
71. Silver Age: The Brave And The Bold #1 (DC)
72. Batman/Huntress: Cry For Blood #2 (DC)
73. Marvels Comics: Captain America #1 (Marvel)
74. Young Justice #21 (DC)
75. Silver Age: Teen Titans #1 (DC)
76. Authority #15 (WildStorm/DC)
77. Wildcats #11 (WildStorm/DC)
78. Silver Age: Showcase #1 (DC)
79. Catwoman #82 (DC)
80. Batman Chronicles #21 (DC)
81. Captain Marvel #7 (Marvel)
82. Silver Age: 80-Page Giant #1 (DC)
83. E.V.E. Protomecha #4 (Image)
84. Superman vs. Predator #1 (Dark Horse/DC)
85. Bishop: The Last X-Man #10 (Marvel)
86. Deadpool #42 (Marvel)
87. F5 #2 (Image)
88. Birds Of Prey #19 (DC)
89. Batman: 80 Page Giant #3 (DC)
90. Batman: It's Joker Time #1 (DC)
91. Promethea #8 (WildStorm/DC)
92. Gen^{13} #53 (WildStorm/DC)
93. Silver Age: Secret Files #1 (DC)
94. Silver Age: Challengers of the Unknown #1 (DC)
95. Silver Age: Doom Patrol #1 (DC)
96. Silver Age: Dial H For Hero #1 (DC)
97. Spawn: The Dark Ages #15 (Todd McFarlane/Image)
98. Star Wars #18 (Dark Horse)
99. Buffy The Vampire Slayer #21 (Dark Horse)
100. CrossGen Chronicles #1 (CrossGen)

100% GUARANTEED!

Lame Gimmick of the Month

PHOTO COVERS

In the early '80s, Marvel tested a new cover gimmick to grab eyes instantly: the photograph cover. Test subjects included *Amazing Spider-Man* (vol. 1) #262, *Dazzler* #21, *Spider-Woman* (vol. 1) #50, *Fantastic Four* (vol. 1) #268...and the memorable *Marvel Team-Up* #128. The idea never caught on back then—probably because the printing quality was terrible.

The Cap model? None other than then-up-and-coming artist Joe Jusko, a hulking, 6-foot-4 weightlifting enthusiast.

"That's one of the skeletons in my closet," muses Jusko, who painted all four of this month's *Wizard* covers. "It was the first suit the promotions department made; it took three guys to zip me into it." And did Jusko feel at home in the costume? "I *am* Captain America," he cries. "He *is* a comic book artist, you know."

■ **JESSE THOMPSON**

LOOKING BACK

What topped the charts FIVE YEARS AGO?

1. Spawn #34 (Todd McFarlane/Image) The Violator plots to destroy Spawn as a murderer stalks an adult wrestling club and Armageddon draws closer.

2. Gen^{13} #4 (WildStorm/Image) Brandon Choi and J. Scott Campbell sure know how to sell a comic. Just take a bunch of horny teens and let 'em all get some.

3. Spawn: Blood Feud #2 (Todd McFarlane/Image) This now (snicker) classic Alan Moore tale's got everything a fan could want—Spawn fights the police and gets mistaken for a vampire.

4. Cyblade/Shi Special: The Battle #2 (Image) Shi and Cyblade team up with Cerebus, Bone, Hellboy, The Tick and many others in a story that should have never taken place.

5. Dawn #1 (Sirius) Dawn bangs a prince and convinces him to go look for Heaven. If this ain't a classic, we don't know what is.

6. Sovereign Seven #3 (DC) Chris Claremont bashes readers over the head with 24 pages of text-heavy balloons that end with Excalibur being freed from the stone...by accident.

7. Shi: Senryaku #1 (Crusade) Artists like Jim Lee, Joe Quesada and Dave Sim recount Shi's warrior teachings...it's as good as it is (snore) boring.

8. WildC.A.T.s #22 (WildStorm/Image) The team tries to reform Manchester and gets their asses handed to them one by one. The ending will shock you...if you've never seen "The Sixth Sense" or "The Wizard of Oz."

9. Superman vs. Aliens #3 (Dark Horse) Superman finds a kindred soul in space as he battles the Alien menace Lex Luthor is using as a biological weapon.

10. Superman #104 (DC) Superman strikes a deal with Darkseid and gets stabbed in the back when the big D brings back the Cyborg from his prison.

the ring of fire roars to a close...

and the new monthly series explodes

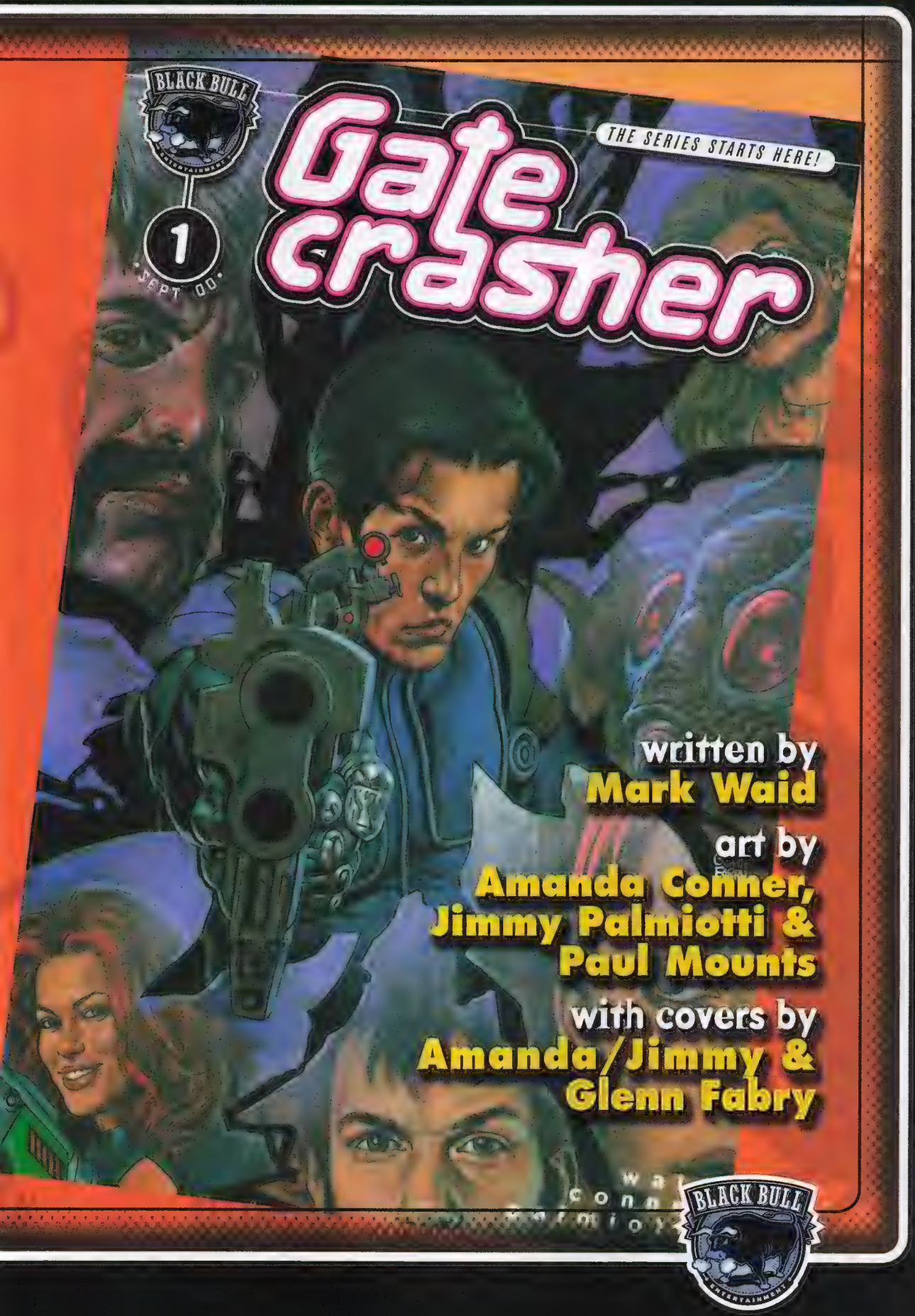
Gatecrasher™

the series

#1

on sale June 28!

Black Bull, its logo, Gatecrasher and its logo are ™ & © 2000 Black Bull Entertainment.


BLACK BULL
ENTERTAINMENT
THE SERIES STARTS HERE!
Gate crasher
1
SEPT 00
written by
Mark Waid
art by
Amanda Conner,
Jimmy Palmiotti &
Paul Mounts
with covers by
Amanda/Jimmy &
Glenn Fabry
BLACK BULL
ENTERTAINMENT

COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE

CREATOR ABBREVIATIONS

Abell, Dusty ..... DAb
Abnett, Dan ..... DAt
Adams, Art ..... AAd
Adams, Michael ..... MAd
Adams, Neal ..... NAd
Adkins, Dan ..... DAd
Adlard, Charlie ..... CAd
Ahlquist, Mark ..... MAq
Alcatena ..... ALc
Allred, Laura ..... LAl
Allred, Michael ..... MAl
Altieri, Kevin ..... KAt
Altstaetter, Karl ..... KAl
Anderson, Brent ..... BAn
Anderson, Murphy ..... MAn
Andru, Ross ..... RAn
Aparo, Jim ..... JAp
Aragonés, Sergio ..... SAr
Arcudi, John ..... JAr
Augustyn, Brian ..... BAu
Austin, Terry ..... TAu
Ayers, Dick ..... DAy
Bachalo, Chris ..... CBc
Badger, Mark ..... MBd
Bagley, Mark ..... MBa
Bair, Michael ..... MBi
Baker, Kyle ..... KBa
Balent, Jim ..... JBl
Banks, Darryl ..... DBk
Baron, Mike ..... MBo
Barr, Mike W. ..... MWb
Barreto, Eduardo ..... EBa
Batista, Chris ..... CBt
Benefiel, Scott ..... SBe
Benes, Ed ..... EBe
Benitez, Joe ..... JOe
Benjamin, Ryan ..... RBn
Bennett, Joe ..... JBe
Bennett, Richard ..... RBe
Bisley, Simon ..... SBi
Bissette, Stephen ..... SBs
Biukovic, Edwin ..... EBi
Blevins, Bret ..... BBl
Bogdanove, Jon ..... JBg
Bolland, Brian ..... BBo
Bolton, John ..... JBo
Bond, Phillip ..... PBo
Booth, Bret ..... BBt
Boring, Wayne ..... WBo
Boyd, Robert ..... RBo
Breeding, Brett ..... BBd
Brereton, Daniel ..... DBn
Brevoort, Tom ..... TBr
Breyfogle, Norm ..... NBr
Bridges, Vic ..... VBr
Bridwell, E. Nelson ..... EBr
Bright, Mark ..... MBr
Brigman, June ..... JBr
Broderick, Pat ..... PBr
Broome, John ..... JBm
Broome, Mat ..... MAt
Brown, Robert ..... RBw
Brozowsky, Joe ..... JBz
Brunner, Frank ..... FBr
Buccellato, Steve ..... SBc
Buckingham, Mark ..... MBu
Buckler, Rich ..... RBu
Buscema, John ..... JBu
Buscema, Sal ..... SBu
Busiek, Kurt ..... KBu
Butler, Jeff ..... JBt
Butler, Steve ..... SBt
Buzz ..... BUz
Byrd, Mitch ..... MBy
Byrne, John ..... JBy
Calafiore, Jim ..... JCf
Campbell, Eddie ..... ECa
Campbell, J. Scott ..... JCp
Campos, Marc ..... MCa
Capullo, Greg ..... GCp
Cardy, Nick ..... NCa
Carey, Mike ..... MCy
Carlin, Mike ..... MCr
Castellini, Claudio ..... CCa
Castrillo, Anthony ..... ACa
Cavalieri, Joey ..... JCf
Chadwick, Paul ..... PCh
Chang, Bernard ..... BCh
Charest, Travis ..... TCh
Chaykin, Howard ..... HCh
Chen, Sean ..... SCh
Chiarello, Mark ..... MCh
Chichester, Dan ..... Ch
Chiodo, Joe ..... JCd
Choi, Brandon ..... BCo
Churchill, Ian ..... ICh
Cirocco, Frank ..... FCi
Claremont, Chris CCl
Cockrum, Dave ..... DCo
Colan, Gene ..... GCo
Collins, Max ..... MCo
Collins, Mike ..... MCn
Collins, Nancy A. ..... NCo
Collins, Terry ..... TCo
Colon, Ernie ..... ECo
Conner, Amanda ..... ACo
Conte, Rob ..... RCo
Conway, Gerry ..... GCy
Cooper, Dave ..... DCp
Crilley, Mark ..... MCi
Cruz, Roger ..... RCr
Cullins, Paris ..... PCu
Daniel, Tony ..... TDa
Darrow, Geof ..... GDa
David, Peter ..... PDa
Davis, Alan ..... ADa
Davis, Dan ..... DDv
Davis, Malcolm ..... MDa
DeFalco, Tom ..... TDe
Delgado, Ricardo ..... RDe
DeMatteis, J.M. ..... JDm
Deodato, Jr., Mike ..... MDe
Deodato, Mike ..... MDd
DeVries, David ..... DDe
Dezago, Todd ..... TDg
DeZuniga, Tony ..... TDz
Dillon, Steve ..... SDn
Dini, Paul ..... PDi
Ditko, Steve ..... SDi
Dixon, Buzz ..... BDi
Dixon, Chuck ..... CDi
Dodson, Terry ..... TDo
Doran, Colleen ..... CDo
Dorkin, Evan ..... EDo
Dorman, Dave ..... DDo
Doucet, Julie ..... JDo
Dringenberg, Mike ..... MDr
Duffy, Jo ..... JDu
Dunn, Ben ..... BDn
Dwyer, Kieron ..... KDw
Eastman, Kevin ..... KEa
Eaton, Scot ..... SEa
Edginton, Ian ..... IEd
Egeland, Marty ..... MEg
Eisner, Will ..... WEi
Eldred, Tim ..... TEl
Ellis, Warren ..... WEl
Ellison, Harlan ..... HEl
Englehart, Steve ..... SEn
Ennis, Garth ..... GEn
Erskine, Gary ..... GEs
Erwin, Steve ..... SEr
Estes, John ..... JEs
Eury, Michael ..... MEu
Evanier, Mark ..... MEv
Everett, Bill ..... BEv
Ezquerra, Carlos ..... CEz
Fabry, Glenn ..... GFa
Farmer, Mark ..... MFa
Felchle, Norman ..... NFe
Ferry, Pascual ..... PFe
Finch, David ..... DFn
Fingeroth, Danny ..... DFi
Fisher, Hart D. ..... HFi
Fleet, John Van ..... JFl
Fleisher, Michael ..... MFl
Fleming, Robert ..... RFl
Fox, Gardner ..... GFo
Fox, Greg ..... GFx
Fraga, Dan ..... DFr
Franchesco ..... FRa
Frank, Gary ..... GFk
Freeman, George ..... GFn
Frenz, Ron ..... RFr
Friedman, Michael Jan ..... MFr
Friedrich, Mike ..... MFh
Fry III, James ..... JFr
Fujiwara, Kamui ..... KFu
Furman, Simon ..... SFu
Gaiman, Neil ..... NGa
Gammill, Kerry ..... KGu
Garney, Ron ..... RGa
Garzon, Carlos ..... CGa
Gascione, Phil ..... PGa
Geary, Rick ..... RGe
Geiger, Steve ..... SGg
Gerber, Steve ..... SGe
Gerhard ..... GEr
Gianni, Gary ..... GGi
Giarrano, Vince ..... VGi
Gibbons, Dave ..... DGb
Giddings, Noelle ..... NGi
Giffen, Keith ..... KGi
Gil, Armando ..... AGi
Gilbert, Michael T. ..... MGi
Gillis, Peter ..... PGi
Giordano, Dick ..... DGi
Glanzman, Sam ..... SGl
Goldberg, Stan ..... SGd
Golden, Michael ..... MGo
Goodwin, Archie ..... AGn
Gosier, Phil ..... PGs
Grainger, Sam ..... SGn
Grant, Alan ..... AGr
Grant, Steven ..... SGr
Grau, Peter ..... PGr
Gray, Mick ..... MGy
Green, Randy ..... RGr
Grell, Mike ..... MGr
Grey ..... GRe
Grindberg, Tom ..... TGg
Gross, Daerick ..... DGr
Gross, Paul ..... PGo
Gruenwald, Mark ..... MGn
Grummett, Tom ..... TGr
Guay, Rebecca ..... RGu
Guice, Jackson ..... JGu
Guichet, Yvel ..... YGu
Guinan, Paul ..... PGn
Gulacy, Paul ..... PGu
Gustovich, Mike ..... MGu
Ha, Gene ..... GHa
Haley, Matt ..... MHy
Hall, Bob ..... BHl
Hama, Larry ..... LHa
Hamm, Sam ..... SHa
Hamner, Cully ..... CHa
Hampton, Bo ..... BHa
Hampton, Scott ..... SHm
Haney, Bob ..... BHy
Hannigan, Ed ..... EHa
Hansen, Marc ..... MAh
Hanson, Neil ..... NHa
Harras, Bob ..... BHa
Harris, Jack C. ..... JHa
Harris, Mike ..... MHa
Harris, N. Steven ..... NSh
Harris, Tony ..... THa
Harrison, Lou ..... LHr
Harrison, Mark ..... MHn
Hartnell, Andy ..... AHa
Hartsoe, Everette ..... EHr
Hawkins, Matt ..... MHw
Hayes, Drew ..... DHa
Heath, Russ ..... RHe
Heck, Don ..... DHe
Hedden, Rich ..... RHd
Heisler, Mike ..... MHs
Helfer, Andrew ..... AHe
Hempel, Marc ..... MHp
Henry, Flint ..... FHy
Hernandez, Gilbert ..... GHe
Hernandez, Jaime ..... JHr
Hernandez, Michael ..... MHe
Herrera, Ben ..... BHe
Hester, Philip ..... PHe
Hewlet, Jamie ..... JHe
Higgin, John ..... JHi
Higgins, Michael ..... MHi
Hitch, Bryan ..... BHi
Hitchcock, Laura ..... LHi
Hoberg, Rick ..... RHo
Holcomb, Art ..... AHo
Holdredge, Jon ..... JHo
Hooper, Ken ..... KHo
Hoover, Dave ..... DHo
Hopgood, Kevin ..... KHp
Hotton, Brian ..... BHt
Hotz, Kyle ..... KHt
Howarth, Matt ..... MHo
Howell, Richard ..... RHw
Hudnall, James ..... JHu
Hughes, Adam ..... AHu
Hughes, Steven ..... SHu
Immonen, Stuart ..... SIm
Isabella, Tony ..... TIs
Isherwood, Geof ..... GIs
Ishida, Tatsuya ..... TIh
Jackson, Scott ..... SJa
Jacobs, Will ..... WJa
James, Joseph A. ..... JJm
Janes, Steve ..... SJo
Janke, Dennis ..... DJa
Janson, Klaus ..... KJa
Jarvinen, Kirk ..... KJv
Jenkins, Paul ..... PJe
Jennett, Stuart ..... SJe
Jensen, Jeff ..... JJe
Jimenez, Leonardo ..... LJi
Jimenez, Phil ..... PJi
Johnson, Dave ..... DJo
Johnson, Jeff ..... JJo
Johnson, Paul ..... PJe
Johnson, Rob ..... RJh
Johnson, Stewart ..... SJh
Jones, Bruce ..... BJo
Jones, Gerard ..... GJo
Jones, J.B. ..... JJn
Jones, Kelley ..... KJo
Jones, R.A. ..... RJo
Jones, Robert ..... RJn
Jurgens, Dan ..... DJu
Jusko, Joe ..... JJu
Justiniano, José ..... JJs
Kaluta, Michael Wm. ..... MKl
Kaminski, Len ..... LKa
Kane, Bob ..... BKa
Kane, Gil ..... GKa
Kanigher, Robert ..... RKa
Kaniuga, Trent ..... TKn
Kavanagh, Terry ..... TKa
Kayanan, Rafael ..... RKy
Kazalek, Mike ..... MKz
Kelly, Joe ..... JKe
Kennedy, Cam ..... CKe
Keown, Dale ..... DKe
Kesel, Barbara ..... BKe
Kesel, Karl ..... KKe
Kieth, Sam ..... SKi
Kindlerski, Lovern ..... LKi
Kirby, Jack ..... JKi
Kitson, Barry ..... BKi
Klein, Todd ..... TKl
Kolins, Scott ..... SKi
Korday, Igor ..... IKo
Krause, Peter ..... PKr
Kristiansen, Teddy H. ..... TKr
Kubert, Adam ..... AKu
Kubert, Andy ..... AKb
Kubert, Joe ..... JKu
Kupperberg, Alan ..... AKp
Kupperberg, Paul ..... PKu
Kwitney, Alisa ..... AKw
LaBan, Terry ..... TLa
Labat, Yancey ..... YLa
Lackey, Mike ..... MLc
Laguna, Fabio ..... FLa
Laird, Peter ..... PLa
Lanning, Andy ..... ALa
Lansdale, Joe R. ..... JLa
Lapham, David ..... DLp
LaQuinta, Robert ..... RLa
Lark, Michael ..... MLr
LaRocque, Greg ..... GLa
Larroca, Sal ..... SLr
Larsen, Erik ..... ELa
Lash, Batton ..... BMa
Lashley, Ken ..... KLs
Lawlis, Dan ..... KLa
Lawrence, Clifford ..... CLa
Lawrence, Mike D. ..... MLa
Layton, Bob ..... BLa
Lee, Pat ..... PAl
Lee, Paul ..... PAu
Leach, Rick ..... RLc
Lee, Elaine ..... ELe
Lee, Jae ..... JAl
Lee, Jim ..... JLe
Lee, Patrick ..... PAt
Lee, Scott ..... SCl
Lee, Stan ..... SLe
Lee, Tom ..... TLe
Leeke, Mike ..... MLo
Leialoha, Steve ..... SLa
Leon, John Paul ..... JLn
Leonard, Mike ..... MLn
Leonardi, Rick ..... RLe
Levins, Rick ..... RLv
Levitz, Paul ..... PLe
Lieber, Larry ..... LLe
Lieber, Steven ..... SLb
Liefeld, Rob ..... RLd
Lightle, Steve ..... SLi
Lim, Ron ..... RLi
Linsner, Joseph Michael ..... JLi
Lobdell, Scott ..... SLo
Locke, Vince ..... VLo
Loeb, Jeph ..... JLb
Lofficier, R.J.M. ..... RLo
López, José Luis Garcia ..... JLz
Lopresti, Aaron ..... ALp
Luke, Eric ..... ELk
Lumley, Ralph ..... RLu
Lustbader, Erik ..... ELu
Luth, Tom ..... TLu
Lyle, Tom ..... TLy
Macchio, Ralph ..... RMa
Mack, David ..... DAv
Mackie, Howard ..... HMa
Macon, Darko ..... DAr
Madan, Dev ..... DVm
Madureira, Joe ..... JMd
Maggin, Elliot S. ..... EMa
Maguire, Kevin ..... KMa
Mahnke, Doug ..... DMn
Mahfood, Jim ..... JMf
Manaba, Jahji ..... JMa
Mandrake, Tom ..... TMc
Mangels, Andy ..... AMa
Manley, Mike ..... MMn
Manning, Russ ..... RMi
Mantle, Bill ..... BMa
Marcos, Pablo ..... PMa
Marden, William ..... WMr
Marder, Larry ..... LAm
Marimon, Bill ..... BMn
Mariotte, Jeff ..... JMi
Maroto, Esteban ..... EMa
Marrs, Lee ..... LMr
Martinbrough, Shawn ..... SMa
Marz, Ron ..... RMz
Massengill, Nathan ..... NMa
Matsuda, Jeff ..... JMs
Matt, Joe ..... JMt
Maus, Bill ..... BMs
Mayerik, Val ..... VMa
Mayhew, Mike ..... MMa
Mays, Rick ..... RMy
Mazzucchelli, David ..... DMa
McAvennie, Mike ..... MMc
McCarthy, Brendon ..... BMr
McCloud, Scott ..... SMl
McCraw, Tom ..... TMw
McCrea, John ..... JMr
McDaniel, Scott ..... SMd
McDaniel, Walter ..... WMc
McDonnell, Luke ..... LMc
McDuffie, Dwayne ..... DMc
McEowan, Patrick ..... PMc
McFarlane, Todd ..... TMc
McGregor, Don ..... DMg
McGuinness, Ed ..... EMc
McKean, Dave ..... DMk
McKeever, Ted ..... TMk
McKenna, Mark ..... MCk
McKenzie, Roger ..... RMc
McKie, Angus ..... AMc
McKone, Mike ..... MMk
McLaughlin, Sean ..... SMc
McLaurin, Marc ..... MMl
McLeod, Bob ..... BMc
McMahon, Michael ..... MMh
McManus, Shawn ..... SMs
Medina, Angel ..... AMe
Medley, Linda ..... LMe
Mercadocasio, Harvey ..... HMc
Messner-Loebs, William ..... WLo
Mhan, Pop ..... PMh
Michelinie, David ..... DMi
Mignola, Mike ..... MMi
Milgrom, Al ..... AMi
Millar, Mark ..... MMr
Miller, Frank ..... FMi
Miller, Mike S. ..... MMe
Miller, Steve ..... SMi

ARTISTS & WRITERS

NAMEGAME

CREATOR FUN 'N' GAMES

Match the X-Men creator to his least favorite X-member:

1 Mark Waid

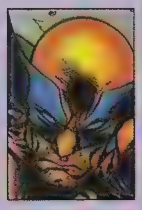
2 Joe Kelly

3 Joe Madureira

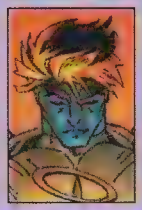
4 Neal Adams

5 Dave Cockrum

A Wolverine

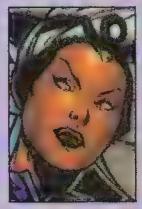


B Angel



C Dazzler

D Storm



E Psylocke

Answers: 1, D, 2, C, 3, E, 4, B, 5, A

PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHIRALDI

Milligan, Peter .....PMi
Mireault, Bernie .....BMr
Mishkin, Dan .....DMs
Moder, Lee .....LMd
Moebius .....MOe
Moeller, Christopher ...CMa
Moench, Doug .....DMo
Moldoff, Shelly .....SMo
Monks, Joseph M. .....JMk
Mooney, Jim .....JMo
Moore, Alan .....AMo
Moore, John Francis ...JFm
Moore, Terry .....TMr
Morales, Rags .....RMa
Moretti, Mark .....MMo
Morrison, Grant .....GMo
Morrow, Gray .....GMr
Motter, Dean .....DMt
Mougin, Lou .....LMo
Moy, Jeffrey .....JMy
Murray, Doug .....DMu
Muth, Jon J .....JMu
Mychaels, Marat .....MMy
Nagai, Go .....GNa
Nagayasu, Takumi .....TNg
Naifeh, Ted .....TNa
Napolitano, Nick .....NNa
Napton, Bob .....BNa
Nasser, Mike .....MNa
Nauck, Todd .....TNu
Neary, Paul .....PNe
Nelson .....NEl
Nelson, Mark A. .....MNl
Netzer, Mike .....MNe
Newell, Mindy .....MNw
Newton, Don .....DNe
Nichols, Art .....ANi
Nicieza, Fabian .....FNi
Nieves, Rafael .....RNi
Nocenti, Ann .....ANo
Nolan, Graham .....GNo
Nord, Cary .....CNr
Novick, Irv .....INo
Novin, Phyllis .....PNo
Nowlan, Kevin .....KNo
Nutman, Philip .....PNu
O'Barr, James .....JOb
O'Connel, Brian .....BOc
O'Connor, Thomas .....TOc
O'Donnell, Peter .....POd
O'Neil, Dennis .....DOn
O'Neil, Kevin .....KOn
Olivetti, Ariel .....AOl
Olliffe, Pat .....POl
One, Dark .....DOe
Ordway, Jerry .....JOr
Orlando, Joe .....JOd
Oshii, Mamoru .....MOs
Ostrander, John .....JOs
Otomo, Katsuhiro .....KOt
Ozkan, Tayyar .....TOz
Pace, Richard .....RPc
Pacella, Mark .....MPc
Pacheco, Carlos .....CPa
Paley, Nina .....NPa
Palmiotti, Jimmy .....JPl
Palmiotti, Peter .....PPa
Pander, Arnold .....APn
Pander, Jacob .....JPn
Paniccia, Mark .....MPn
Parker, Rick .....RPk
Parkhouse, Steve .....SPa
Parobeck, Mike .....MPr
Pascos, James .....JPc
Patterson, Bruce .....BPa
Pearson, Jason .....JPs
Pekar, Harvey .....HPe
Pelletier, Paul .....PPe
Pendleton, Linda .....LPe
Pennington, Mark .....MPe
Pérez, George .....GPe
Perlin, Don .....DPe
Peterson, Brandon .....BPe
Peterson, Jonathan .....JPo
Petrucha, Stefan .....SPr
Peyer, Tom .....TPe
Phillips, Sean .....SPh
Phipps, Rob .....RPh
Pini, Richard .....RPi
Pini, Wendy .....WPi
Platt, Stephen .....SPt
Pleece, Warren .....WPl
Ploog, Mike .....MPl
Plunkett, Kilian .....KPl
Pollack, Rachel .....RPo
Pollard, Keith .....KPo
Pollina, Adam .....APo
Pope, Paul .....PPo
Porazich, Faye .....FPe
Porter, Howard .....HPo
Portacio, Whilce .....WPo
Post, Jarrod .....JPo
Potter, Doug .....DPo
Potts, Carl .....CPo
Powell, Bob .....BPo
Powell, Martin .....MPo
Premiani, Bruce .....BPr
Priest, Christopher .....CPr
Prosser, Jerry .....JPr
Puckett, Kelley .....KPu
Pugh, Steve .....SPu
Pulido, Brian .....BPu
Purcell, Gordon .....GPu
Pusko, Martin .....MPa
Queen, Randy .....RQu
Quesada, Joe .....JQu
Raab, Ben .....BRb
Ramos, Humberto .....HRa
Randall, Barbara .....BRa
Randall, Ron .....RRu
Raney, Tom .....TRa
Ranson, Arthur .....ARa
Raskin, Jordan .....JRa
Rawson, Dave .....DRa
Raynor, Richard Piers ...RPr
Reeves-Stevens, Judith ...JRv
Renick, Jaxon .....JRn
Richardson, Mike .....MRi
Ricketts, Mark .....MRc
Ridgeway, John .....JRi
Rieber, John Ney .....JRe
Riley, John .....JRl
Rinaldi, Pino .....PRi
Robbins, Frank .....FRo
Robbins, Trina .....TRo
Roberts, Lon .....LRo
Robertson, Darick .....DRb
Robinson, James .....JRb
Rogers, Marshall .....MRo
Roman, Steve .....SRo
Romita, John .....JRo
Romita Jr., John .....JRj
Ross, Alex .....ARo
Ross, Dave .....DRo
Ross, John .....JRs
Ross, Luke .....LRs
Ross, Marshall .....MRs
Roth, Werner .....WRo
Royle, John .....JRy
Rozakis, Bob .....BRo
Rozum, John .....JRz
Rubi, Melvin .....MRu
Rubinstein, Joe .....JRu
Rude, Steve .....SRu
Russell, Craig P. .....PCr
Russell, Vince .....VRu
Ryan, Matt .....MRy
Ryan, Paul .....PRy
Ryder, Tom .....TRy
Sagara, Mike .....MSa
Sakai, Stan .....SSa
Sale, Tim .....TSa
Salick, Roger .....RSa
Saltares, Javier .....JSs
Sanderson, Peter .....PSa
Sant, Wayne Van .....WVa
Saviuk, Alex .....ASa
Schaffenberger, Kurt ...KSc
Schmitz, Mark .....MSm
Schrab, Rob .....RSc
Schultheiss, Matthias ...MSc
Schultz, Mark .....MSh
Scoffield, Sean .....SSc
Seagle, Steven T. .....SSe
Sears, Bart .....BSe
Semeiks, Val .....VSe
Severin, Marie .....MSe
Shanower, Eric .....ESh
Sharp, Liam .....LSh
Shaw, Sean .....SSh
Sherman, James T. .....JSn
Sherman, Jim .....JSr
Shirow, Masamune .....MSr
Shoemaker, Terry .....TSh
Shooter, Jim .....JSh
Sibal, Jonathan .....JSb
Siegel, Jerry .....JSg
Sienkiewicz, Bill .....BSi
Silvestri, Eric .....ESi
Silvestri, Marc .....MSi
Sim, Dave .....DSi
Simon, Joe .....JOi
Simonson, Louise .....LSi
Simonson, Walt .....WSi
Simpson, Don .....DSs
Simpson, Howard .....HSi
Simpson, William .....WSm
Sinnott, Joe .....JSi
Skeates, Steve .....SSk
Skroce, Steve .....SSr
Skrones, Mary .....MSs
Slampyak, Ted .....TSl
Slifer, Roger .....RSl
Slott, Dan .....DSl
Small Jr., Louis .....LSm
Smith, Andy .....ASm
Smith, Beau .....BSt
Smith, Jeff .....JSm
Smith, Paul .....PSm
Smith, Tod .....TSm
Snejbjerg, Peter .....PSn
Sniegoski, Tom .....TSg
Snyder III, John K. .....JSy
Sparling, Jack .....JSp
Spiegelman, Art .....ASp
Spiegle, Dan .....DSp
Springer, Frank .....FSp
Sprouse, Chris .....CSp
St. Pierre, Joe .....JPi
Starlin, Jim .....JSt
Statema, John .....JSa
Staton, Joe .....JSo
Steacy, Ken .....KSt
Stephenson, Eric .....ESp
Steranko, Jim .....JSe
Stern, Roger .....RSt
Stern, Steve .....SSt
Stevens, Alec .....ASt
Stevens, Dave .....DSt
Strnad, Jan .....JSd
Stone, Chic .....CSt
Stone, Peter .....PSt
Stradley, Randy .....RSr
Strazewski, Len .....LSz
Stroman, Larry .....LSt
Sullivan, Lee .....LSu
Sutton, Tom .....TSu
Swan, Curt .....CSw
Takenaga, Francis .....FTa
Talbot, Bryan .....BTa
Tan, Billy .....BTn
Tanaka, Masashi .....MTk
Tanghal, Romeo .....RTa
Taylor, Mike .....MTa
Taylor, R.G. .....RTl
Templeton, Ty .....TTe
Tenney, Mark .....MTn
Tenney, Tom .....TTn
Texeira, Mark .....MTe
Thibert, Art .....ATh
Thibodeaux, Mike .....MTh
Thomas, Joel .....JTm
Thomas, Roy .....RTh
Thompson, Jill .....JTh
Tidwell, Terry .....TTi
Timm, Bruce .....BTi
Toth, Alex .....ATo
Trimpe, Herb .....HTr
Troug, Chas .....CTr
Truman, Timothy .....TTr
Tucci, Billy .....BTu
Turner, Dwayne .....DTu
Turner, Michael .....MTu
Tuska, George .....GTu
Tuttle, Todd .....TTu
Vachss, Andrew .....AVa
Vado, Dan .....DVa
Valentino, Jim .....JVa
Vance, Cindy .....CVa
Vance, James .....JVn
Vance, Steve .....SVa
VanHook, Kevin .....KVh
Veitch, Rick .....RVe
Veitch, Tom .....TVe
Velez Jr., Ivan .....IVe
Velluto, Sal .....SVe
Verheiden, Mark .....MVe
Vess, Charles .....CVe
Vigil, Tim .....TVi
Villagran, Ricardo .....RVi
Vince, Nick .....NVi
Von Eeden, Trevor .....TEe
Vosburg, Mike .....MVo
Wagner, John .....JWa
Wagner, Matt .....MWa
Wagner, Ron .....RWa
Waid, Mark .....MWd
Waldron, Lamar .....LWa
Walton, Rob .....RWl
Waltrip, Jason .....JWp
Waltrip, John .....JWt
Warner, Chris .....CWa
Warren, Adam .....AWa
Watkiss, John .....JWk
Weaver, Michael .....MWv
Weeks, Lee .....LWk
Wein, Len .....LWe
Weinstein, Howard .....HWe
Weiss, Alan .....AWe
Wenzel, David .....DWe
Wheatley, Mark .....MWh
Whigham, Rod .....RWh
Wiacek, Bob .....BWi
Wieringo, Mike .....MWr
Wildman, Andrew .....AWm
Williams, Anthony .....AWl
Williams, Chris .....CWi
Williams, David .....DWl
Williams, Kent .....KWi
Williamson, Al .....AWi
Willingham, Bill .....BWl
Wilshire, Mary .....MWi
Windsor-Smith, Barry ...BSm
Witten, Brian .....BWt
Woch, Stan .....SWo
Wolf, Chance .....CWl
Wolfe, Joe .....JWf
Wolfman, Marv .....MWo
Wood, Ashley .....AWo
Wood, Teri S. .....TWo
Wood, Wally .....WWo
Worley, Kate .....KWr
Wormer, Kirk Van .....KWo
Wozniak, Chris .....CWo
Wright, Gregory .....GWr
Wrightson, Bernie .....BWr
Wyman, M.C. .....MWy
Yaep, Chap .....CYa
Yale, Kim .....KYa
Yeates, Tom .....TYe
Yeowell, Steve .....SVe
Yu, Leinil Francis .....LYu
Zarate, Oscar .....OZa
Zeck, Mike .....MZe
Zulli, Michael .....MZu

ALL PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHRAUDI EXCEPT PEREZ PHOTO BY BRIAN SMITH.

FAN FAVORITES

TOP 10 CREATORS

These are the creators the fans crave. Creators whose name on a cover sells the book. *Wizard*'s "Top Ten Creators" lists are derived from a nationwide survey. Artists include pencilers and painters.

WRITERS

1. Garth Ennis
Punisher, Preacher

2. Chris Claremont
Uncanny X-Men, X-Men

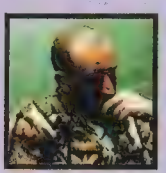
3. Alan Moore
America's Best Comics

4. Warren Ellis
Planetary, Counter-X

5. J. Michael Straczynski
Rising Stars

6. Jeph Loeb
Superman, Batman: Dark Victory

7. Brian Michael Bendis
Powers, Sam & Twitch



8. Brian Azzarello
Hellblazer, 100 Bullets

9. Greg Rucka
Detective Comics

10. Mark Millar
The Authority

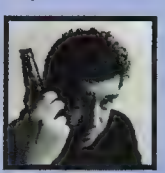
ARTISTS

1. Leinil F. Yu
X-Men

2. Michael Turner
Fathom

3. George Pérez
Avengers

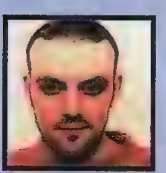
4. Ed McGuinness
Superman



5. Steve Dillon
Punisher, Preacher

6. Steve Skroce
Wolverine

7. Adam Kubert
Uncanny X-Men



8. Frank Quitely
The Authority

9. Jae Lee
The Sentry

10. José Ladronn
Inhumans

ALL PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHRAUDI EXCEPT GEORGE PEREZ BY BRIAN SMITH

© Wizard Entertainment. Wizard: The Guide to Comics and Wizard Entertainment

MORE HOT STARS AND CREATORS

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO 2000

JOSEPH LINSNER
DAWN

SIRIUS™
JASON ALEXANDER
JASON ASALA
MARK CRILLEY
JILL THOMPSON
DREW HAYES

AUGUST 4-6 2000

ROSEMONT CONVENTION CENTER

MEET HUNDREDS OF STARS FROM THE WORLDS OF ENTERTAINMENT, COMICS, SCI-FI AND GAMING IN OUR HUGE EXHIBIT HALL CRAMMED WITH *AMAZING STUFF!*

CHAOS!™ COMICS
BRIAN PULIDO
JERRY BECK
DAVID BREWER
DORIAN CLEAVANGER

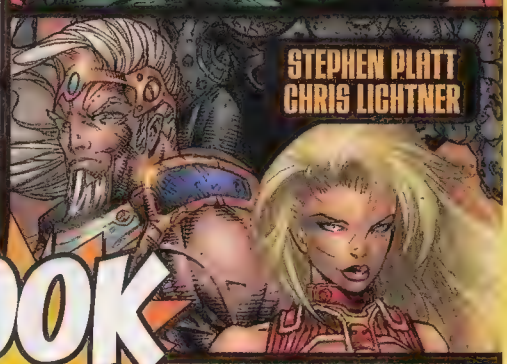
WWF
CHYNA!
THE NINTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

TICKETS		
ADULT	1 DAY $20	3 DAY $40
CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER GET IN	FREE!	

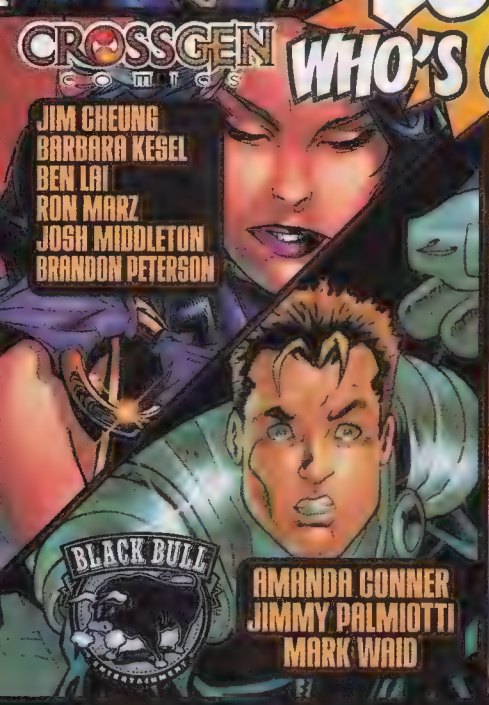
CALL 1-800-690-1669 FOR TICKETS

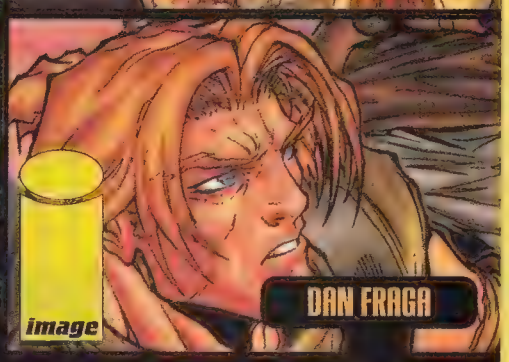
WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO ™ & © 2000 WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT. DAWN ™ & © 2000 JOSEPH LINSNER. CHYNA AND THE WWF LOGO ™ & © 2000 TITAN SPORTS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. GUEST LIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

than ever before!



LOOK WHO'S COMING!





VISIT OUR AMAZING EXHIBITORS!

A.D. Vision Inc.
Angel Medina Inc.
Animetrix/Inteleg International
Art Instruction Schools
Black Bull Entertainment
Cartoon Books
Cartoonists Across America
Central Park Media
Chaos! Comics/Infinity Comics
Claypool Comics
Collectible Display Systems
Comic Book Legal Defense Fund
Comics Buyer's Guide
Cross Generation Comics
Dark Horse Comics
DC Comics
Decipher Inc
Diamond Comic Distributors
DK Publishing Inc
Entertainment Earth
Eruptor.Com
Fandom
Georgia Music
Graphitti Designs
Harris Comics
Hash Inc
Illinois Institute of Art
Image Comics
Journeyman Press
Manga Entertainment
Marvel Entertainment Group
Miramax Films
Moore Creations
National Collector/TNC Universe
Palisades Marketing
Penny Farthing Press
Ripcord Games, LLC
Sci-Fi Channel
Score
Sirius Entertainment Inc.
TMP/McFarlane Toys
Top Cow Productions
Top Shelf Productions
Tower Records
ToyCom, Inc
Troma Entertainment
Ultra-Pro (Rembrandt)
Warp Graphics/Living Toys
White Wolf
Wizard Entertainment
WizardWorld.com
Wizards of the Coast

Payment must be included with all orders. Send check or money order payable to Entertainment Conventions, or pay by credit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Credit card orders must include the card holder's name, the complete card number and expiration date. With payment, please send your name, address, and the specific days you will be attending to: Wizard World Chicago, P.O. Box 656, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.

Tickets are sent via first-class mail for all orders received by July 21, 2000. All orders received after that date will be held for pickup at the door. All orders received after July 28, 2000 will not be processed and returned to sender.

For travel and hotel information, call Tzell Travel at 800-865-9038 ext. 666.

FREE Exclusive *Rising Stars* #1/2 Wizard World Edition and early admission (on Sat. and Sun.) WITH ALL ADVANCE TICKET ORDERS!

This exclusive comic book is written by J. Michael Straczynski and features an all-new limited-edition cover and art by Christian Zanier.

VISIT WIZARDWORLD.COM

www.wizardworld.com

GUEST LIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE

THE MOST AMAZING STUFF YOU

WIZARD

FAN AWARDS CEREMONY

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO 2000

AUGUST 4-6 2000

ROSEMONT CONVENTION CENTER

WIN!

TONS OF COOL PRIZES IN THE SCAVENGER HUNT!

SATURDAY 11 AM TO 5 PM

SIGN UP AT THE WIZARD BOOTH

SPONSORED BY:

CROSSGEN comics

Infinity

STUDIO STORE

ONE LUCKY WINNER WILL WIN A MASSIVE PRIZE PACKAGE FROM THE WARNER BROS. STUDIO STORE AND "BATMAN/SUPERMAN ADVENTURES" ANIMATION MASTER PAUL DINI!

GRAND PRIZE SCAVANGER WILL GET AN [illegible] DESIGNED "[illegible]" [illegible] AND [illegible] WITH [illegible]

OTHER PRIZES WILL INCLUDE: [illegible]

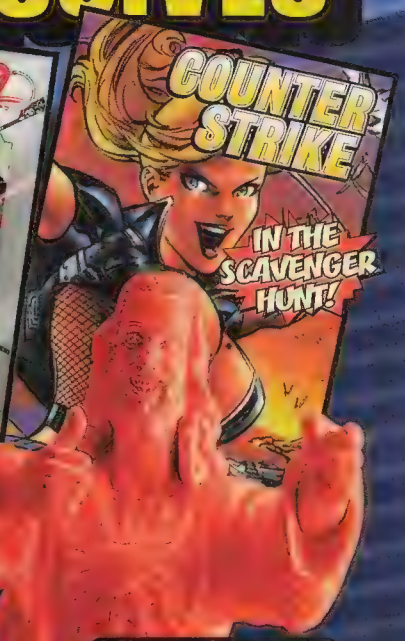
CALL NOW FOR ADVANCE TICKETS

"WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO" ™ & © 2000 WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT. DAWN ™ & © 2000 JOSEPH LINSNER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. GUEST LIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

CAN'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE!

SUPER COOL EXCLUSIVES

AALOK
AT THE DREAMWAVE BOOTH



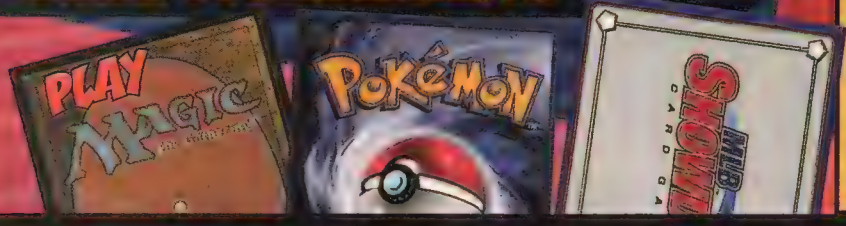
BUDDY CHRIST
AT THE GRAPHITTI BOOTH

MORE!

- **CBLDF SUPER AUCTION !**
  - ORIGINAL FRANK MILLER ART!
  - NEIL GAIMAN'S LEATHER JACKET AND MORE!
- **POWER HOUSE WRESTLING!**
- **KUNG FU THEATRE!**
- **GAME TOURNAMENTS**

MORE GUESTS!

KIA ASAMIA	ROB LIEFIELD
JOE CASEY	JANET LUPO
IAN CHURCHILL	CLAYBURN MOORE
HART FISHER	JERRY ORDWAY
MIKE GRELL	HUMBERTO RAMOS
GREG HORN	BILL REINHOLD
INSANE CLOWN POSSE	STEVE RUDE
GREG LAND	STACY WALKER
KEVIN LAU	SHANNON WHEELER
STEVE LEIBER	JUDD WINICK



Payment must be included with all orders. Send check or money order payable to Entertainment Conventions, or pay by credit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Credit card orders must include the card holder's name, the complete card number and expiration date. With payment, please send your name, address, and the specific days you will be attending to: Wizard World Chicago, P.O. Box 656, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.

Tickets are sent via first-class mail for all orders received by July 21, 2000. All orders received after that date will be held for pickup at the door. All orders received after July 28, 2000 will not be processed and returned to sender.

For travel and hotel information, call Tzell Travel at 800-865-9038 ext. 666.

FREE Exclusive *Rising Stars* #1/2 Wizard World Edition and early admission (on Sat. and Sun.) WITH ALL ADVANCE TICKET ORDERS!

This exclusive comic book is written by J. Michael Straczynski and features an all-new limited-edition cover and art by Christian Zanier.

1-800-690-1669 AND GET IN EARLY

WIZARD

www.wizardworld.com

SHOWS & CONS

These listings are as accurate as we can get 'em, but *Wizard* always recommends phoning ahead before you attend an event—show information sometimes changes after we go to press. With that in mind, it's time for all you comic-hungry hordes to go conventioneering!

CALIFORNIA

EVERY WED. & EVERY SAT., CITY OF INDUSTRY

FRANK & SON COLLECTIBLE WAREHOUSE, 19649 E. San Jose Ave. Over 150 dealer /tables @ $40 each, FREE admission, FREE parking, Wed: 4pm-9:30pm & Sat: 10am-5pm. This show will feature a wide selection of comics, toys, action figures, Beanie Babies, Hot Wheels, non-sports cards, Star Wars, Star Trek, and much more. For info & directions call Frankie @ 909-444-7955 or 909-444-7956. Visit our Website @ www.fs-collectibles.com.

JULY 16, LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES COMIC BOOK & SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION, Shrine Auditorium Expo Center, 700 West 32nd St. $5 admission, 10am-5pm. THE LARGEST AND LONGEST RUNNING MONTHLY CONVENTION ON THE WEST COAST! SPECIAL GUESTS FEATURED EVERY MONTH! A dealer's room full of Golden & Silver age, and new comic books, toys, action figures, movie memorabilia, Star Wars & Star Trek toys, non-sports & sports trading cards, Beanie Babies, Pokemon collectibles, Japanese animation merchandise, Hong Kong movie videos. For more information contact Bruce Schwartz, 2319-A West Olive Ave. Burbank, CA 91506 or call 818-954-8432 or check Website at www.comicbookscifi.com.

JULY 20-23, SAN DIEGO

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL: SAN DIEGO, the premier comic book and popular arts convention in the United States. Partial list of guests to date include: Kyle Baker, Will Eisner, Phoebe Gloeckner, Ben Katchor, Harry Knowles, Jeph Loeb, Don Maitz & Janny Wurts, Scott McCloud, Christopher Moeller, Tim Sale, Kevin Smith, Bill Stout, J. Michael Straczynski, Bryan Talbot, Lewis Trondheim, Gahan Wilson. Joining us to celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Flash and The Green Lantern will be Harry Lampert & Marty Nodell, (Co-Sponsored by AACC), Will Elder, Al Feldstein, Annie Gaines, Jack Kamen, Adele Kurtzman, Marie Severin, Angelo Torres, Al Williamson, (Co-sponsored by Big 5) Gray Morrow, and many, many more! 250,000 square feet of exhibit space, multi-track programming featuring panels and seminars on a variety of subjects dealing with all aspects of comics and popular culture. Convention includes: Independent Press Pavilion, Golden Age Pavilion, Portfolio Review, Art Shows, Art Auction, Masquerade, Japanese Animation, Games, Films, Eisner Awards and sneak peaks at upcoming Hollywood movies. 45,000 attendees can't be wrong. For information write Comic-Con International, P.O. Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92115, E-mail cciweb@aol.com or visit our Website at www.comic-con.org. Hotel reservations and travel information: 1-800-COMIC-99.

CANADA

August 25-27, Toronto

6th ANNUAL "CANADIAN NATIONAL COMIC BOOK EXPOSITION '00" Canada's largest comic book event, Metro Toronto Convention Centre (next to Skydome). 250 tables, $10 (USD) admission per day or $20 (USD) for weekend pass. Fri. 4pm-9pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-6pm. Show features include: Seminars, workshops, Q and A sessions, artist alley featuring over 100 guests, art auction, animation demonstrations, corporate area, Canadian National Anime Expo, Canadian National Science Fiction Expo, and the popular "Industry Night" (retailers only Sat 7 pm, Joe Badali's) Guests include: Adam Kubert, Jae Lee, Andy Park, Brain Bendis, Pat Lee, Jonathan Frakes (Riker), Hudson Leick (Callisto), James Marsters (Spike), Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett) with many, many more TBA. For Information, write Canadian National Expo, 4 Varsity Rd, Toronto, Ontario, M6S4N4, Canada or call Hobby Star Marketing @ 416-761-1760.or agupta@hobbystar.com or http://www.hobbystar.com.

CONNECTICUT

AUGUST 6, ENFIELD

ASNUNTUCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 170 Elm St., Enfield, exit 48 off I-91 then 1 mile East, college is on the right. 120, 6ft and 8ft tables @ 40 each, 2 for $75 or 3 for $105, 9am-2pm. Featuring Golden age, Silver age and modern new and back issues. Toys and action figures, sci-fi, Anime, cards, memorabilia and more! Guests TBA. STARTING OCT 1ST WE WILL BE MONTHLY WITH THE SHOW RUNNING THE 1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. For table or guest info contact: MATTS SPORTCARDS AND COMICS,169 Elm St., Enfield, CT. 06082. Call 860-741-2522 Or visit the show Website at allstarpromotions.8m.com.

JULY 30, EAST HARTFORD

CONNECTICUT COMIC BOOK CONVENTION (CONNECTICON), East Hartford Elks Hall, 148 Roberts St., exit 58 from I-84. 35, 8ft dealer tables @ $45 each, 99 cents admission, 11AM-5PM. NE's longest running all comics show with over 20 years in this location and we're monthly in 2000. Featuring Golden age, Silver age & Modern comics, also non-sports cards, Star Wars items, toys, magazines, pulps and other comic collectibles. Guest artists at most shows. For more information & table reservations contact: Hal Kinney (The Bookie), 206 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, CT 06108, 860-289-1208 (AFTERNOONS ONLY-EST).

ILLINOIS

JULY 4, 15, 30, ORLAND PARK

COMICS AND MORE SHOW, Civic Center (one block west of LaGrange Rd. at 147th St.) 6ft tables @ $30 each, 2 tables @ $55, $1 admission, setup: 7:30am-9am, open: 9am-3pm. Comics, toys, non-sport and sports cards, Hot Wheels, Beanie Babies, action figures, memorabilia, die-cast, game cards, Magic tournament (Saturdays), sanctioned Star Wars tournament (Sundays). Contact: John Leary @ 708-423-1758.

JULY 8, SUMMIT

COLLECTORSFEST presents THE FIRST ANNUAL COMIC BOOK AND RELATED ITEMS SHOW at the Summit American Legion Hall, 6050 South Harlem Avenue, 3 minutes south of I55 Expressway. 8ft. tables $45 each, 3/$110, $3 Admission per person, under 12 FREE, 9am-3pm. Buy - Sell - Trade your favorite hobbies: comics, toys, cards, artwork, etc. Dealers always welcome, inquire about our other shows. Contact Paul Maiellard, P.O. Box 2376 Bridgeview, IL 60455. 708-430-8107.

LOUISIANA

JULY 29, METAIRIE

COMIC & TOY SHOW, Holiday Inn, 3400 I-10 Service Rd, exit 228 Causeway South. 25, 6ft tables @ $40 each, $3 admission. Don't miss the first show of two this year! Don't miss our huge selection of comics, Golden to the present, toys, non-sports cards and much more! For tables or more show info contact: Kevin Frazier @ 601-892-5031 AFTER 6pm, email: kevf@netdoor.com. Be sure to visit our site for collectibles and conventions http://www.angelfire.com/biz6/topshelfcomics.

MASSACHUSETTS

AUGUST 20, BOSTON

SUNDAY FUNNIES, Comic & Collectibles Multi-Media Expo, Holiday Inn (RT 1A) Airport, E. Boston, 225 William McClellan Hwy. 10am-3pm, 30-60 dealer tables, $5 admission, children under 10 FREE w/parent. Featuring: Pokemon, Non-sports cards, models & garage kits, Star Wars stuff, new & old comics, Japanese toys, Godzilla toys & movies, Anime, action figures, TV merchandise like Xena & Buffy and lots more. Also featuring a MODEL CONTEST, best of show wins a CASH prize, other prizes given for 2nd & 3rd place showings. Contest entries are $2 per model, children under 10, no charge to register a model in the contest. There will be separate child model contest prizes. Special guest will be announced. For information: Garagekit.com, 150 Vine Street, Reading, MA 01867, 781-944-5528 or our Website www.garagekit.com or email us at sans@mediaone.net.

MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER 16 & 17, MINNEAPOLIS

MINNESOTA COMIC BOOK ASSOCIATION - MCBA FALLCON 2000, Thunderbird Hotel, 2201 East 78th St, Bloomington, Minnesota (Next to the Mall of America) $8 admission, good for both days, children 7 & under FREE! 10am-5pm on Saturday & Sunday. FallCon features 25,000 square feet of cool stuff and free entertainment! Over 50 Comic Book creators will be appearing live at FallCon! Come meet an amazing array of superstar national, regional & local comic book artists, writers and publishers, including giants from the legendary Silver Age (including Carmine Infantino & Irwin Hasen)! Fall-

Con also presents the finest dealers from all over the USA buying, trading & selling gold, silver, collectors & modern comic books, original comic book art, action figures & toys, non-sports cards, comic memorabilia, trade paperbacks & graphic novels, prints, Star Wars & Star Trek, Manga & Anime, Magic, Pokemon, videos & much more! SPECIAL EVENTS include a massive charity comic art & collectibles auction, extensive guest panels & Q&A sessions, fan club presenters, Anime room, professional art portfolio review, art lessons and much more TBA! FREE creator signatures, hundreds of door prizes & FREE gigantic MCBA grab bags to the first 500 attendees on Saturday & 250 on Sunday! Hundreds of door prizes! This convention is a lot of fun! For more information, directions, the guest list, or to get on our mailing list, call the MCBA 24 hour hotline @ 612-788-8191, email us at MNCBA@aol.com or visit our new Website at www.MNCBA.com!

MISSISSIPPI

JULY 30, JACKSON

COMIC & TOY SHOW, Ramada Inn, Greymont Ave, exit 96B off I-55. 20, 6ft tables @ $40 each, $3 admission. Don't miss the only show this year! Don't miss our huge selection of comics, Golden to the present, toys, non-sports cards and much more! For tables or more show info contact: Kevin Frazier 601-892-5031 AFTER 6pm, email kevf@netdoor.com. Be sure to visit our site for collectibles and conventions http://www.angelfire.com/biz6/topshelfcomics.

NEW JERSEY

JULY 7-9 & AUG. 25-27, WILDWOOD

NEW JERSEY'S biggest FREE admission shows, located on the boardwalk at Burk Ave in the air conditioned Wildwood Convention Center. Top comic book, action figure, sports and non-sports dealers plus numerous comic book artists (Bill Tucci, August), media celebrities and sports stars (Flyers star Keith Jones, July). No shows are more fun. Enjoy great coasters, see babes in bikinis and pig out on junk food galore. Wildwood is the place this summer! For more information call 609-448-7585.

JULY 23, WAYNE

WAYNE COMIC BOOK EXPO, Wayne Holiday Inn, Rt 46 Service Rd. (Off Rt. 23 South near Willowbrook Mall). 30, 8ft tables @ $60 each, $2 admission (kids under six and 2nd parent FREE!), Easy, FREE parking. PUG BUCKS given out throughout the day as door prizes! Comics from GA to present at great prices! The East Coast's best and friendliest dealers without the NYC hassle! Two no minimum bid auctions! For updates call JP @ 973-783-0608 or email: pugprdctns@aol.com.

JULY 22 & 23

COLLECTIBLES MEGA SHOW, Newark Airport Sheraton, 128 Frontage Rd. Directions: from NJ Turnpike to exit 14, take 2nd right marked Frontage Rd. Some dealer tables available, $15 admission per day, $25 2 day VIP pass, $6 children 12 & under, at the show discount advanced tickets available, call at least 10 days prior to the show to get these, Sat:10am-7pm, Sun: 10am-5pm. The east coast's largest and most spectacular show featuring a giant selection of comics, toys, rock & roll items, TV movie memorabilia. Up to 300 tables. Plus superstar guests: James Marsters (Spike from Buffy the Vampire Slayer), Jeff Conway (Grease, Taxi, Babylon Five), Linda Harrison (Nova from Planet of the Apes), Audrey & Judy Landers (Vegas, Dallas), Doors guitarist Robby Krieger, former WWF star Nicole Bass, Paul Lematt (American Graffiti), Michael Pollard (Superboy, Lost in Space), and Playboy Playmates Nicole Wood, Jennifer Lavoie & Janet Lupo, comic artists to be announced. For information call 201-261-4982, 201-261-8803, or www.kspromotions.com

NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 15 & 16, NEW YORK

The BIG APPLE COMIC BOOK, ART & TOY SHOW, NY's greatest comic book convention! St. Paul Church Auditorium, Columbus (9th) Ave. & 60th St., NYC. Fri:12pm-8pm, Sat:10am-7pm, $6 admission each day. Buying, selling & trading Gold, Silver & Modern age comics, Toys, action figures, non-sports cards, comic art, movie posters, videos, Anime, TV & movie memorabilia and more. Special guests: CHAOS! Comics. Plus, a Charlton Comics celebration featuring Dick Giordano (tent.), Joe Gill, Sam Glanzman, Joe Staton, Willie Franz and more. For info call 718-326-2713 or visit our Website www.ba2k.net.

OHIO

JULY 30, COLUMBUS

BUCKEYE COMIC CONVENTION, Holiday Inn-West, I-270 @ exit 10 (Roberts Rd). 30, 6ft dealer tables @ $50 each, $2 admission, children 6 & under FREE, 10am-4pm. 1,000s of Golden, Silver & modern age comics, action figures, non sport cards, videos & Pokemon items. Hourly door prizes, FREE comic to first 25 customers. For dealer information and other questions: 330-499-6056 or email: jeffharpro@aol.com.

AUGUST 13, AKRON

AKRON-CANTON COMIC BOOK CONVENTION, Holiday Inn-Akron south, I-77@ exit 120 (Arlington Rd). 43, 6ft dealer tables @ $90 each, $3.50 admission, children 6 & under FREE, 10am-4pm. 10 years Northeastern Ohio's biggest comic event! 1,000s of Golden, Silver & Modern age comics, action figures, non-sport cards, videos & Pokemon items. GUESTS: Brian Vaughn, writer: '00 JLA Ann., Swamp Thing, GL:Ring of Fire, upcoming Batman issues. Karl Waller, artist: Wolverine movie prequel, LODCU #30-32 featuring Wonder Woman. Patrick Zircher, artist: Nightwing #42-44, 47, Titans #13, Young Justice, Captain America & Iron Man. Hourly door prizes. For dealer information and other questions: 330-499-6056 or email: jeffharpro@aol.com.

PENNSYLVANNIA

AUGUST 20, PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA COMIC-CON, Holiday Inn, 10th St. & Packer Ave., exit 46 off I-76 or exit 15 off I-95 (follow signs to Packer). From NJ, take Walt Whitman Bridge to second exit after toll plaza (exit 46). 48 tables are 1/$65 or 2/$120, 10am-4 pm. Philadelphia's longest running all-comic show is also the best value as you get in for only $3 ($2 when you mention WIZARD), plus free parking! Besides comics from the 1940's to this week, our dealers (from 6 states) also will be selling, buying and trading non-sports cards, Japanimation videos, Pokemon and other related collectibles. Great giveaways every hour including $100 in show cash given away throughout the day good for any merchandise at the show! Special guests to be announced so visit your local comic shop for a flyer or call our hotline the weekend of the show for the latest update. Contact Derek Woywood of Collectors Comics at 856-782-0817.

TENNESSEE

JULY 9, NASHVILLE

THE GREAT NASHVILLE COMIC SHOW returns, Days Inn Airport on Briley Parkway. $2 admission, 9-4pm. There will be toys, Pokemon, Magic, silver and golden age Anime and more. Guest t.b.a. DOOR PRIZES AND TRIVIA CONTEST BEFORE THE SHOW. Visit our web site for update www.comiccity.homepage.com or call Comic City @ 615-262-0908 or 883-9096.

VIRGINIA

AUGUST 13, MCLEAN/VIENNA (WASHINGTON D.C. AREA)

CAPITAL ASSOCIATES MONTHLY COMIC, TOY & CCG SHOW, NEW location: Tysons Corner Holiday Inn, 1960 Chain Bridge Rd. Directions: Take exit 11 South (Route 123) off I-495, 1/4 mile, hotel is on right. For further directions call @ 703-893-2100. 80 vendor tables: 1st table @ $85, 2nd table @ $80, 3rd+ @ $75, $2 admission, children under 5 FREE, FREE parking, 10am-4pm. Buy, Sell, Trade: Gold, Silver & new comics, independents, Anime, CCG, toys, POKEMON, Star Wars, Buffy, posters,t-shirts, original artwork, non-sports cards, etc. Guests: Call. Jeff Rocen @ 703-912-1993, http://members.aol.com/comicshow & comicshow@aol.com.

WISCONSIN

JULY 30, MILWAUKEE

COM-MIX 4 COMIC BOOK & NON-SPORTS CARD SHOW, Burnham Bowl, 60th & Burnham. $2 admission or FREE with a non-perishable food donation. All food donations go to "Food for Families". 8ft dealer tables @ $25 each or 2 for $40, 12noon-5pm. 1000s of golden, silver and modern age comics, non-sports cards, Pokemom items, Sci Fi, action figures. For more information go to www.ArcadeComics.com or 262-253-9003.

ATTENTION!

If you'd like to use *Wizard's* magic to help advertise your comic book event or retail location, call Karen Evora at (914) 268-3907 or e-mail to fullpage1@wizardworld.com before the 10th of each month. Remember we do not list comic book pricing or 900#.

misc.

WELCOME TO MISCELLANEOUS STUFF!

Want more business? *Wizard* has a million readers with $42 billion, $600 million in spending power...GET YOUR PIECE OF IT, ADVERTISE HERE!

SPOTLIGHT YOUR AD HERE

CALL AND FIND OUT HOW.

CONTACT:
Karen Evora
Advertising Projects Manager
Wizard Entertainment Advertising
151 Wells Avenue
Congers, NY 10920
tel: (914) 268-3907 x144
fax: (914) 268-5386
email: fullpage1@wizardworld.com

anime/manga

AAA ANIME
WWW.AAAANIME.COM
JAPANESE IMPORTS
WIDE SELECTION
SAME DAY SHIPPING
(ON MOST ORDERS)
RELIABLE SERVICE
WHOLESALE & RETAIL (626) 237-0819

collectibles

Licensed Products from:
Final Fantasy
Resident Evil
Rising Stars
Fathom
Crimson
and more. . .

PALISADES

www.palisadesmarketing.com

comics

Looking for back issues or new comics?
Try TOP SHELF COMICS, ph/fax (207) 947-4939
34 Main St. Bangor, ME 04401
Visit our extensive on-line catalog www.tcomics.com

Discount New Comics by Mail!
SUPER EASY DEADLINES!
Order the same month comics come out—even after!
NEW ENGLAND COMICS ON-LINE ORDERING!
www.ffast.com

For all your comic and toy needs.
www.kebcotoys.com

miscellaneous

ATTENTION COMIC COLLECTORS

Why pay retail or even wholesale prices?
Amazing deals in our free monthly auction catalog. Golden Age, Silver Age to the hottest modern comics on the market. Also a large stock of action figures and non-sports cards! All comics awarded to the highest bidder. The catalog also consists of other collectibles i.e. non-sportscards, sportscards, autographs, stamps, coins, railroad etc. Return rate < 5 lots per 15,000. Over 10,000 lots every issue.

CALL FOR FREE CATALOG
1-800-364-2948 x305
www.JamesJReeves.com
JAMES J. REEVES
Must be 18 yrs. old or have parental permission
References: Mellon Bank, Huntingdon, PA
Member of the Better Business Bureau

ALWAYS BUYING! ext. 316

New comics, Gamesworkshop, CCG games, Dice, RPG books all at low prices.
www.ArcadeComics.com

supplies

COMIC BOOK SUPPLIES
BAGS, BOARDS, BOXES
FREE $5 coupon & catalog
CALL 781-986-2653
BILL COLE ENTERPRISES, INC.
P.O. Box 60, Dept. W107
Randolph, MA 02368-0060
e-mail: bcemylar@cwixmail.com or
web: www.neponset.com/bcemylar

wizard online

WIZARD WORLD ONLINE

REDESIGNED!

Hey, check out **wizardworld.com** with our funky new layout and design. New functions! New features! New pretty pictures! Log in and check us out at www.wizardworld.com

FIGHT CENSORSHIP IN COMICS

Support the CBLDF's efforts to protect the First Amendment Rights of all comic book professionals. Send donations to: P.O. Box 693, Northampton, MA 01061 or call (800) 992-2533 for a free copy of BUSTED!, the CBLDF newsletter

THE COMIC BOOK LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

COMIC BOOK INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT

C.B.I.Q.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART...

Seeing as how it's our "X-Men" movie issue, we've concocted a very special "C.B.I.Q." which takes a closer look at some of Marvel's merriest mutants. But we ain't talkin' about the one's you'll be seeing on the big screen anytime soon. Uh-uh. We're talkin' about the lame-o mutants that'd be lucky to get a movie of the week on UPN. And hey, we'll even rate you against the lamest mutant powers of all time. The lamer the power, the higher your score!

SCORE	RANK
0	*Changing traffic lights from red to green*
1-4	*Finding lost socks*
5-8	*Sneezing...with your eyes open*
9	*Always having exact change*

ANSWERS
Candy-asses can peek on page 190 if this is too tough...

1 After the Vanisher stole defense plans from the Pentagon, his mutant ability to...gee..."vanish" didn't help him any when:
- a) Kitty Pryde phased him.
- b) Gambit charged up his costume.
- c) Professor X gave him amnesia.
- d) Some punk-ass kid from Iowa called him up as a lifeline on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

2 Nothing says lame more than pint-sized pink and green mutants Artie and Leech. Who did these two freaks of nature disguise themselves as to break into Avengers Mansion?
- a) Mr. Fantastic and the Human Torch
- b) Captain America and Thor
- c) Spider-Man and Daredevil
- d) Alan Moore and his beard

3 Sure, the Blob's really fat, but did you know he's also an idiot? His first act of terrorism after learning he was a mutant was to...
- a) Join Magneto's Brotherhood of Evil Mutants.
- b) Kidnap Jean Grey.
- c) Take over a circus.
- d) "Drop a load" right on the Lincoln Memorial.

4 All Jamie Madrox (at right) has to do to create perfect duplicates is strike himself. But what first triggered Multiple Man's powers?
- a) Abuse by his father
- b) A high-school fight
- c) A doctor's spanking
- d) Some bad fish

5 The Peeper's mutant ability to "see really far" wasn't all he could do. He could also...
- a) Shoot energy beams from his eyes.
- b) See through time.
- c) Hypnotize people.
- d) See he wasn't gettin' any.

6 Doug Ramsey (a.k.a. Cypher) of the New Mutants grabbed the short straw the day powers were handed out. Yep, he could decipher any language, but poor Dougie could never decipher his love for who?
- a) Emma Frost
- b) Kitty Pryde
- c) Wolfsbane
- d) Show tunes

7 Fabian Cortez, who can increase any mutant's powers, may have been Magneto's house boy in Genosha, but he actually kicked ass when he killed who?
- a) Cyclops' gal Madelyne Pryor
- b) Bishop's sister Shard
- c) Magneto's "clone" Joseph
- d) The X-Men franchise

8 Hellfire Club member Harry Leland could increase the mass of any object, which helped him...well, it never really helped him, except to have a heart attack while battling who?
- a) Nimrod
- b) Sebastian Shaw
- c) The White Queen
- d) A biggie-sized, triple-classic meal from Wendy's

9 Besides having typical teenage gal problems like acne and boys, Generation X's M is also a what?
- a) Pyromaniac–someone who burns things
- b) Schizophrenic–someone with dual personalities
- c) Kleptomaniac–someone who steals stuff
- d) Necropheliac–someone who...uh, *really* likes dead people

ONE LAME-ASS CHARACTER

MORTOFTHEMONTH

GUESS THE NAME AND ORIGIN OF THIS MONTH'S LOSER

A) After successfully navigating a minefield in Ireland, Lance "Chip" O'Hare realized he was the luckiest man alive, donned a protective suit and tackled crime as **LUCKY X!**

B) A reporter during WWII, Richard "Buck" Dare joined the super-secret organization The Group, flying his experimental plastic aircraft called 'Jenny' while fighting the good fight as **CAPTAIN X!**

C) While digging for treasure in the South Pacific, ex-con Karl "Hatch" Tilder stumbled upon a box containing a matter-transporting gun, which he used to commit crimes as the ever-evasive **THE EXIT!**

D) Angered by his snobbish peers, rich socialite Byron "Target" Hughes combined his marksman skills with a specially designed strength-doubling pill to become the costumed hero **DOUBLE X!**

MORTOMETER

Answer on page 190

BULLPEN LOOK BEHIND THE CURTAIN

RAINBOW OF DOOM

Was it a bomb?

A mysterious package weighing over 60 pounds was delivered by standard mail to Editorial Director Matthew Senreich labeled "biohazard." "I didn't want to die, so I did the noble thing and asked Copy Editor Andy Serwin to help me bring it back to my desk," smiled Senreich. "I mean, how often do you get something in the mail that weird?"

Inside, the pair discovered a six-foot-long duffel bag with biohazard signs on it. Serwin ripped the bag open to discover over 60 pounds of gourmet jellybeans. Mixed bags! Cherry! Mint! Even popcorn flavored! Apparently, Kevin Hoffer at Image Comics sent the beans as a promotional tool for its upcoming project *Objective Five*, which is all about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (thus the biohazard bag).

After clubbing Senreich with one of the jellybean bags (no joke!), Serwin gorged himself on the delicious sweets (about two pounds in a few hours). Hours later, Research Editor Dan Reilly was horrified to discover the bloated copy editor choking on jellybeans in the bathroom.

"It was terrible," Reilly said. "It was as if he'd mugged the Easter Bunny or Ronald Reagan and eaten all the spoils."

"More...tangerine...get...funnel!" gurgled Serwin before slipping into a sugar-induced coma.

SUGAR RUSH Serwin's sweet tooth was painfully yanked mere moments later.

TOP 10 "X-Men" Movie Fast-Food Tie-Ins

10. Filet O' Famke
9. McBLToad
8. Pizza Hut's Personal Pan Paquin
7. Jumbo Jackman with cheese
6. Bishop Token Blackened Catfish
5. McDonald's Big Professor Xtra
4. Mr. Dinner-ster
3. Mystique Pizza
2. Egg McKellen
1. Colossus' Penne á la Vodka, with side of vodka fries and biggie-size glass o' vodka

C.B.I.Q. answers...

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. B

Mort: B

A SNEAK PEEK

COMING RIGHT UP

PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHERALDI

COLLECTING MANIA

Comics! Toys! Statues! Original Art! *Wizard* gives the full lowdown on where to get 'em, how to store 'em and how to sell 'em! Plus, ultra-rare collectibles, creators' prized possessions and more collecting tips than you can shake a backing board at!

NEXT MONTH IN WIZARD #108

'UNIVERSE X' HITS!

Earth X blew you away. Now Alex Ross and Jim Krueger offer up the anticipated sequel *Universe X*, and we've got the full scoop!

TOUR DC COMICS!

Wanna know what *really* goes on behind closed doors at DC Comics? Check out our in-depth photo tour of DC–but please keep your hands to yourself.

DAREDEVIL VS. SPIDEY: WHO'S NO. 1?

Has Daredevil replaced Spider-Man as Marvel's No. 1 go-to guy? We pit the two red-tighted heroes against each other to see who's king of the mountain!

WIZARD #108

On sale July 26 in comic shops
On sale August 8 everywhere

ONE OF THE DAMNED

Christopher Lawrence
STAFF WRITER

WHY WE PAY HIM "[*Wizard* Staff Writer] Mike Cotton says I'm like Galactus; I devour his world. Besides that, I write for the magazine: news, features, whatever."

BEST OUT-OF-CONTEXT QUOTE "I've been known to go to the hole a time or two." (In reference to his basketball skills)

MOST BIZARRE *WIZARD* MOMENT "At MegaCon, with a cackling Andrew Kardon [*Wizard*'s managing editor], a girl tried to drag me to a tattoo parlor where the guy owned a seven-foot albino python. And no, I didn't get the tattoo."

RADIO DAZE "I worked on the Planet Wenck morning show on WNRQ-FM in Pittsburgh. It was an alternative station, and I was known as Thing 1, from *The Cat in the Hat*. I've got an FCC license and everything."

ON THE FENCE "I took up fencing in January. It's incredible. Unfortunately, I'm more Conan than Zorro–a fact that scares the sweet bejeezus out of the other people in class."

NYMPHOMANIAC "Another time, I had to go to Pitt's campus dressed as a wood nymph and get students to pretend to make love to trees while they moaned and screamed into the microphone."

PHOTO BY PAUL SPINRADI JR.

TOMB RAIDER "Without my knowing it, a traveling companion stuck a piece of ancient hieroglyph into my backpack during a trip to Egypt. Luckily, I slipped it through customs, and I still haven't been cursed."

TOP DOG "I was valedictorian of my high school, and won every highest average award except history 'cause my teacher didn't like me. I still know where he lives."

CIRCUS FOLK "I performed in a circus when I was 12. I did a gymnastic act of sorts, where I'd hop, flip and jump from the back of one moving bike onto another."

MATERNAL INSTINCT "Another radio promotion had me emceeing a Mother's Day event where a bunch of moms were wrestling in an inflatable kiddie pool filled with Thousand Island dressing and applesauce."

TRAFFIC COP "During my radio days, I had to stand guard while a woman undressed a male stripper with her teeth in the middle of a highway."

COMICS "I read just about anything I can get my hands on, but I always pick up *Xeno's Arrow*, *Planetary*, *Punisher*, *Thunderbolts* and *Avengers*."

ALSO AVAILABLE

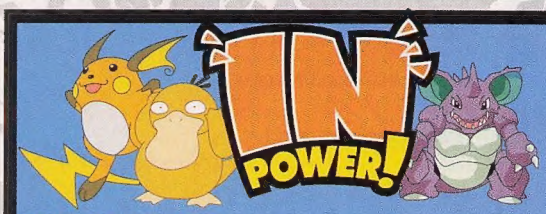
TAKING A WIZ

OTHER MAGAZINES AVAILABLE FROM THE WACKY WIZARD WAREHOUSE

TOYFARE #37

Take a sneak peek at the second wave of "X-Men" movie toys, prepare for the Rising Stars merchandise explosion, and build the perfect superhero collection! Plus: edible action figures! No, really!

On sale July 19 in comic shops
On sale July 25 everywhere



"IN" POWER #5

The Harry Potter madness continues as we dig up 50 secrets on the li'l wizard in training and cast the Harry Potter movie! Plus: Get in on the Fushigi Yuugi animated craze and take the Simpsons challenge to see which character you're most like!

On sale July 12 in comic shops
On sale July 25 everywhere

InQuest gamer

INQUEST GAMER #64

InQuest picks and ranks the 100 best *Magic* cards of all time! Which cards made the list? You'll be pretty surprised! Plus, we'll show you exactly how to win the *Magic* World Championships! Booyah!

On sale July 5 in comic shops.
On sale July 18 everywhere.

THE HOTSEAT

This Month Featuring:

LARA CROFT

MEET NEW 'TOMB RAIDER' MODEL LUCY CLARKSON

***WIZARD*: Do I call you Lara or...?**

LARA CROFT: [*Smiles*] Lucy Clarkson.

And I take it by your accent, you're British?

Yes. I take it by yours you're from America.

[*Smiles*] So now that you're famous, you're gonna move to America, right?

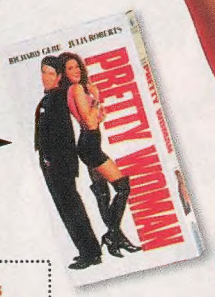
Uh...no. [*Laughs*] I'm still living in Britain. It's my home and home is always the best.

Gimme one reason Britain's better. It can't be the food.

[*Rolls her eyes*] Next question.

What's your favorite movie?

"Pretty Woman."



It makes me cry. I love the fairy tale.

Okay, who'd win in a fight: Angelina Jolie or Lucy Clarkson?

[*Smiles wryly*] Me. I don't stand for any sh--.

Since you're gonna be the object of affection to millions of guys worldwide, including me, would you ever date any of them?

[*Chuckles*] Can't. It's business. No dating in business.

How do ya plan on fending them off? Do you own any *real* guns?

Only plastic.

How about kung fu? Know any kung fu? [*Makes chopping motion*]

I used to kickbox. No kung fu. I'm very tall and it's hard to move like that.

Is it hard to move like the way Andy Park draws you?

[*Stares blankly. Silence.*]

What do you think of Andy Park?

[*Still stares confused.*]

Uh...he's the artist who draws the *Tomb Raider* comic book.

[*Eyes open wide and laughs, a bit embarrassed.*] Oh. I love him! He's the greatest! He is very clever and artistic to make me look so good! [*Continues to giggle.*]

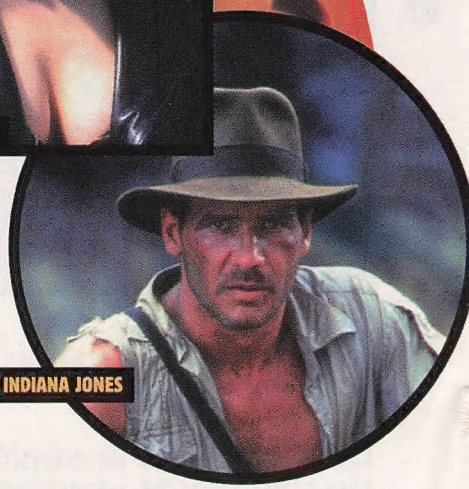
Like *Little Red Riding Hood*?

You mean Robin Hood?

Robin riding who?

I wou...[*laughs*]. Let's just move on.

Who'd win in a fight: Lara Croft or Indiana Jones?



Lara Croft of course!

Favorite actor?

Kurt Russell. I like older men and I just think he's so sexy.

I'm 25 and you're how old...?

17.

I'm going to regret saying this, but you may be a little too young for me. [*Laughs*]

[*Laughs*] Yeah well, it's business anyway. ■ **MATT SENREICH**

LARA CROFT COURTESY EIDOS INTERACTIVE. ANGELINA JOLIE BY JOE LEDERER. INDIANA JONES COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION. PRETTY WOMAN BY PAUL SCHRAUD-

® AND TM DC COMICS ©2000. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE MAN OF STEEL WANTS TO KNOW...

WHO DEALT THIS MADNESS?

SUPERMAN ARKHAM

ALL BETS ARE OFF IN SUPERMAN #160, ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #582, SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #104, ACTION COMICS #769, AND SUPERMAN: EMPEROR ??????? #1

SHUFFLING THE DECK THIS JULY

THE ORIGINAL UNIVERSE™

CALL 1-888-COMIC BOOK FOR YOUR NEAREST COMICS SHOP!

THE CURIOUSLY STRONG MINTS®

©2000 Callard & Bowser-Suchard Inc.

www.altoids.com